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POLAND AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"THE Treaties of 1815," wrote Lord Palmerston some thirty years ago, "clearly stipulate that the nationality of the Poles shall be preserved. The abolition of the Polish colours, the introduction of the Russian language into public acts, the removal to Russia of the national library and public collections containing bequests made by individuals upon specific condition that they never should be taken out of the kingdom of Poland, the suppression of schools and other establishments for public instruction, the removal of a great number of children to Russia on the pretence of educating them at the public expense, the transportation of whole families to the interior of Russia, the extent and severity of the military conscription, the large introduction of Russians into the public employments in Poland, the interference with the national Church, all these appear to be symptoms of a deliberate intention to obliterate gradually the political nationality of Poland, and gradually to convert it into a Russian province."

Now, whatever Lord Palmerston may at present say about Russia having broken the articles of the Treaty of Vienna, he can scarcely pronounce more strongly against her conduct in Poland than he has already done. It is scarcely probable that the address to the Queen on the condition of Poland recommended by Mr. Hennessy will be voted; for in 1833, when the feeling against Russia, owing to the cruelties deliberately planned and put in execution against the Poles by the Emperor Nicholas, was much stronger than it is now, it was found impossible to get the House of Commons to adopt any serious measure on behalf of Poland. The English Parliament were never so near pronouncing in favour of an intervention in this difficult case as in 1833, when the kingdom

of Poland was being (virtually) incorporated with the Russian empire. The Ministry, however, made a Cabinet question of the affair, and found supporters on both sides of the House to negative the proposal, on the ground that if adopted it would infallibly lead to war.

At that time the Radicals formed rather a warlike party, and Mr. Hume, with all his love of economy and all his talk of retrenchment, was, nevertheless, one of the foremost friends of Poland, and desired to see Russia, Prussia, and Austria kept to their agreements, even though the necessary process for bringing about that result should cost something. Indeed, many of the leading Radicals of that period were considered unmanageable from their constant attempts to get England into a quarrel with one or all of the despotic Powers of the Continent, just as the leading Radicals of the present day are often troublesome from their undue anxiety to keep peace, even though to do so it should be necessary to make concessions (of principle, if of nothing else) to these same despots. We do not say that England ought to engage in a hopeless war for the sake of restoring to Poland what, even in the event of success, Poland could not keep, unless, as a preliminary, the Russian empire were destroyed. We only wish to remark that the men of ultra-democratic tendencies, who thirty years ago were always inveighing against despots—even in those rare cases when they were doing no harm—will not have any dispute with them now, whether they do harm or not. This may be progress; but it is progress all round the compass, and the oppressors of Poland cannot be very effectually attacked, either from the old Radical point or from the new.

In the meanwhile, however, Poland has plenty of friends among the large body of moderate men on both sides of the House. Indeed, the body is so large that one must go beyond

the late Lord Castlereagh in Toryism and the late Joseph Hume in Radicalism in order to find outsiders in either direction. We do not know for certain what Mr. Bright's opinions are on the subject of Poland; but we can guess from the celebrated exclamation which he uttered when the justice of annexing Savoy to France was questioned. That partition of Italian territory was, it is true, countenanced by its Sovereign; but so, also, was the first partition of Poland, because in each case the Sovereign could not help it. Moreover, both these partitions were sanctioned by an expression of national consent; and in each case the desired expression was extorted by an irresistible system of horrible menace and disgraceful bribery.

Mr. Cobden has attacked Poland in his "Russia, by a Manchester Manufacturer," with more bitterness than any political man of the last thirty years, except the late Lord George Bentinck and Mr. Disraeli. Fortunately, between men of such extreme views as Lord George Bentinck on the one hand and Mr. Cobden on the other, there are hundreds to be found who are not sufficiently wedded to any theory of government to analyse too closely a cry of distress. Nor do we believe that Mr. Cobden himself would at the present moment seek to justify Russia's position in Poland on the untenable ground that the Poles have deserved the calamities which have fallen so thickly upon them. Poland has certainly not an enemy on the press; and we can scarcely think of one member of the House of Commons who, on consideration, will not be ready to give her the aid of his advocacy and support as long as no question be introduced of fighting a battle, which, however much it may be talked about, will certainly not be fought, and which, for that reason, had better not be brought on the carpet at all.



GENERAL LEE, COMMANDING THE CONFEDERATE ARMY IN VIRGINIA.



GENERAL ROSENCRANZ, COMMANDER OF THE FEDERAL FORCES AT MURFREESBORO'.

GENERALS LEE AND ROSENCRAZ.

THE Generals whose Portraits we engrave have been intimately associated with the two great American armies during the whole time of the civil war—the one being attached to the Southern and the other to the Northern forces.

General Rosencranz, who, it will be remembered, commanded the Federal troops at Murfreesboro', is a native of Ohio, and an old pupil of the West Point School, which he entered in 1838. He came out with the rank of Lieutenant; but in reality remained attached to the school as a professor, not being appointed to the actual service until 1853. At the commencement of the present difficulties he placed himself at the disposal of the Government at Washington, and served, under the orders of General McClellan as Commander of the army in Virginia. He was subsequently appointed to a command in the North-west, and has there conducted himself—especially at Murfreesboro'—so as to inspire perfect confidence in his talents and courage.

A correspondent, writing from the Confederate camp on the Rappahannock, a few days before the battle of Fredericksburg, thus describes General Lee:—

"General Lee, though between fifty and sixty years of age, wears his years well, and strikes you as the incarnation of health and endurance, as he rears his erect soldierlike form from his seat by the fireside to greet courteously the stranger. His manner is calm and stately, his presence impressive and imposing, his dark brown eyes remarkably direct and honest as they meet you fully and firmly, and inspire plenary confidence. The shape and type of the head a little resemble Garibaldi's, but the features are those of a much handsomer man. On the rare occasions when he smiles, and on the still rarer occasions when he laughs heartily, disclosing a fine unbroken row of white, firm-set teeth, the confidence and sympathy which he inspires are irresistible. A child thrown among a knot of strangers would be inevitably drawn to General Lee first in the company, and would run to claim his protection. The voice is fine and deep, but slightly monotonous in its tone. Altogether, the most winning attribute of the General is his unaffected, childlike guilelessness. It is very rare that a man of his age, conversant with important events, and thrown to the surface of mighty convulsions, retains the impress of a simple, ingenuous nature to so eminent a degree. It is impossible to converse with him for ten minutes without perceiving how deeply he has meditated upon all the possible eventualities of the campaign in Virginia, and how sound and well-considered are the positions which he advances. It is obvious that the most entire and trustworthy confidence is placed in General Lee by his subordinate officers, whose respect and affection he seems thoroughly to have won."

"A perfect abnegation of self is visible in every thought and act of General Lee. 'If only I am permitted to finish the work I have on hand, I would be content to live on bread and beef for the rest of my life.' 'Occasionally we have only beef, and occasionally only bread; but if we have both together, and salt is added to them, we think ourselves Sybarites.' Upon this occasion it was necessary to stop and procure food for some of the younger men.' These are some of the characteristic utterances which struck me as they came from General Lee's lips. In reference to the last, it would seem as though the ordinary demands of human appetite were in him subordinated and subjected in presence of the imperious exactions required from his brain. In all the varied attributes which go to make up the commander-in-chief of a great army it is certain that General Lee has no superior in the Confederacy, and it may fairly be doubted whether he has any equal."

"General Lee has three sons in the army—the one a General, under General J. E. B. Stuart; the second a Colonel; the third, a lad of eighteen, who is a private attached to one of the batteries of General Jackson's corps."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The discussion in the Chamber of Deputies on the amendments proposed by the five Opposition members has continued for several days; and, though there is, of course, no chance of any of these amendments being carried, the boldness and ability with which the five members have spoken on the various topics embraced in their amendments—such as Mexico, Italy, the freedom of the press, and official interference at elections—has caused considerable excitement, and this has been much heightened by a prohibition to the papers to make any comments upon the proceedings of the Assembly. Most of the papers protest against such an arbitrary proceeding and cowardly stretch of authority, while the public are disgusted, and lose all faith in the fair words and liberal enunciations of the Emperor.

A letter of the Emperor to the Duke of Malakoff, published in the *Moniteur*, in which he says he is as much Emperor of the Arabs of Algeria as of the French, announces the preparation of a *senatus consultum*, which will render tribes and fractions of tribes indefeasible proprietors of the territory they occupy and which they have had in traditional possession.

SPAIN.

Spain, it is asserted, was asked by the French Government to send back troops to Cochinchina, and refused.

Marshall O'Donnell is unwell, and the sittings of the Spanish Cortes have been suspended by Royal decree. A belief is prevalent that this step, which has produced a great sensation in Madrid, will be followed by a dissolution of the Congress.

Marshall O'Donnell, although still much indisposed, was able on Tuesday to attend the Council of Ministers.

ITALY.

In the Italian Parliament a discussion took place on the subject of Poland; but, at the instance of the Government, the following order of the day was adopted:—"The Chamber, considering the present moment inopportune for the discussion of the question put by Signor Petrucci, passes to the order of the day." Signor Musolino questioned the Ministry with regard to a rumour of the cession of the island of Elba to France. The Minister of Foreign Affairs replied, absolutely denying the truth of the rumour.

PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia has issued his reply to the address of the Chamber of Deputies. The King backs up his Ministers, declaring that all they have done has had his approval and is perfectly constitutional. He maintains that the complaints of the Lower Chamber are unfounded, and assures the deputies that he will not sacrifice the rights of the Crown and of the Upper House to their claims. His Majesty winds up by announcing that, having thus given proof of his wishes for reconciliation, he expects that the Chamber will meet his views. The King has also delivered a reply to the House of Lords, which is very different in its style from that with which he favoured the Lower House. The King declares that his heart is gratified by the complete agreement with his own views which the loyal address develops. The aim of the Government, his Majesty continues, will be to maintain firmly the position it has taken up, at the same time remaining open to any approaches which may be made by the Chamber of Deputies with the view of increasing the greatness of Prussia "through her military power." The address is full of compliment to the devoted loyalty of the House of Lords.

EGYPT.

The new Viceroy of Egypt has received a deputation from the European residents of Alexandria, and has repeated his assurances of a determination not merely to watch over the tranquillity of the country, but to develop its resources and extend its commerce to the utmost of his power. Alexandria, he observed, although only the second city of the country, had many claims to rank as the first, and he promised that he would not lose sight of its wants and of its capabilities.

The Viceroy, it is said, will shortly proceed to Constantinople to receive investiture from the hands of the Sultan.

MEXICO.

Advices received at New York from Vera Cruz to the 9th ult. state that it was rumoured that General Legrate with 10,000 Mexicans had made a sortie from Puebla, surprised a French division of 14,000 men at Acacote, and routed them, killing 2000. It was also reported that 8000 Mexican cavalry had surprised General Berthier's division of 4000 men at Rio Seco in a dense fog, and that during the consternation the French fired upon each other. The French loss was estimated at 1600. Another rumour was that Puebla had surrendered to the French. Tampico and Jalapa had been abandoned by the French. The French fleet bombarded Acapulco for three days, when the Mexicans abandoned the town. The French then took possession of the fort and spiked the guns. The fleet afterwards sailed in another direction.

GREECE.

The National Assembly has resolved that the powers of the members of the Provisional Government shall be maintained, and that they shall have the right of appointing a Council of Ministers. The National Assembly have also passed a decree intrusting the functions of Government to three members, each of whom is to preside in rotation.

The refusal of Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg to accept the Greek crown is reported to have produced a very unsatisfactory impression in Athens. Tranquillity still prevails, although some accounts express a doubt whether the unsettled political condition may not lead to popular disturbances.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

THERE can now be no doubt of the magnitude of the Polish insurrection. We have few details, and the bare telegraphic summaries come to us from the Russian authorities, who, of course, represent events as favourably as possible for their cause. But nothing can be more ominous than even these meagre reports. The dates and the names of places cannot err. The column of Polish news and a map of the country are enough to show how widespread is the revolt, and how little progress has been made in suppressing it, in spite of alleged victories over the insurgents. Wengrow, which it is said has been taken by the Russians after a bloody conflict, is considerably to the east of Warsaw, near the frontier of Russia Proper. On the other side, the country on the Prussian frontier has been the scene of events apparently of much importance. In a combat on the 6th the Russians are said to have been defeated, and a number of the Imperial troops, probably disaffected Poles, fled across the frontier. In the south there has been severe fighting, and the Warsaw and Vienna Railway has fallen into the hands of the insurgents. Of the universality of the movement there can now be no doubt. It was said at first that the larger proprietors and the peasantry stood aloof from it, and that it was supported principally by the smaller citizens, who suffered most from the conscription. This account of the revolt, however, is now plainly inadequate. Whatever may have been the truth at first, it is now evident that this is a great national insurrection, in which men of all classes have joined; that it is a determined—it may be a desperate—attempts by an oppressed people to deliver themselves from a yoke which had become unbearable.

It is now asserted that the great landed proprietors are assisting the insurgents with horses and provisions. More than this, the fever has passed the frontier, and fears of a rising are entertained even in the Prussian territory. The Prussian army is in motion, and a large force is to be concentrated in the disturbed districts. From Austria we hear that the Emperor had prorogued the Galician Diet, and that the resolution is supposed to have been adopted in consequence of Prince Sapieha having announced his intention of proposing that the Diet should vote an address to the Emperor requesting his diplomatic intercession with the Czar in favour of Poland.

The advices received from Volhynia and Podolia are scanty, but it is known that in those provinces the peasants are hostile to the Russian authorities. In Lithuania much Russian blood has been shed, and some of the most important places in that province are now in the hands of the insurgents. In the kingdom of Poland, where there are five strong fortresses, the Russians will doubtless be able to hold their own; but in the provinces of Lithuania, Volhynia, Minsk, and Podolia, where there are no strongholds and but few troops, they will find it difficult to make head against the insurgents, who are said to fight like lions.

All the Russian frontier guards, with the exception of those at Krasow, have been disarmed without bloodshed. The Russian troops have retired from the Galician frontier to the fortress of Zamosc, which is some sixty-five English miles to the south of the city of Lublin. A great number of the conscripts raised in the department of Lublin have been liberated by the insurgents. The peasants in the Ukraine display a very strong inclination to throw off the Russian yoke. The state of siege has been proclaimed in Wilna and Grodno, and in some other towns in Lithuania. Several bridges on the St. Petersburg-Warsaw and Warsaw-Myslowitz Railroads have been destroyed by the insurgents. Warsaw is already overfilled with troops; but reinforcements are continually pouring in.

Several places towards the Prussian frontier are actually in the hands of the insurgents, and there appears no doubt whatever that many fugitive Russian soldiers have crossed into Prussian Poland bringing accounts of unexpected resistance and success on the part of the insurgents. But we must not attach too much importance to these narratives of sudden successes, nor feel over sanguine about the results of a movement which Russia will put forward all her strength to crush. Some complaint appears to have been made to the Austrian Government by Russia regarding assistance which Austrian Poles are said to have rendered to the insurgents, and Austria, it is believed, will take some steps to show her zeal in the cause of "order."

The official journal of Warsaw reports various defeats of the Polish insurgents, in one, at least, of which the relative numbers of Poles and Russians killed are obviously and fantastically misrepresented. But there are telegrams arriving through Lemberg (Austrian Poland) which likewise describe the Poles as having been defeated in several places. The Berlin papers mention a report that part of Prussian Poland is to be declared in a state of siege, and, furthermore, that an agreement has been entered into between the Prussian Government and that of St. Petersburg in reference to the affairs of Poland.

Telegrams arriving from Lemberg speak discouragingly of the Polish insurrection. In two places the Russian troops are represented as having beaten and dispersed insurgent bands—regaining in one instance the possession of a small town which the insurgents had taken. The Russians, however, are said to be defeated near Balinow.

ENGLAND AND THE ROMAN QUESTION.

THE despatches which exhibit the action of the Queen's Government in the affairs of Rome during the recess have now been published, and show that the facts regarding the offer to the Pope of a refuge at Malta are substantially as stated in a paragraph we published last week. Earl Russell, in a letter to Lord Cowley, after reciting the French version of the story, goes on to say:—

That which happened was as follows:—Mr. Russell, on the 25th of July 1862, received unexpectedly from the Vatican a written intimation that the Pope would receive him at twelve o'clock on the next day. Mr. Russell, accordingly, went to the Vatican on the 26th of July, and in the course of a conversation of some length the Pope expressed a wish to know whether, if any circumstances should at any time lead him to desire to take refuge in England, he would be well and hospitably received there. To this question Mr. Russell could, of course, give only a general answer. From this statement it will be seen that, instead of Mr. Russell asking an audience of the Pope, and at that audience making to the Pope an offer of an asylum at Malta, it was the Pope who sent for Mr. Russell, and it was the Pope who started the idea that he might, under certain circumstances, wish to reside in British territory.

Nothing can be clearer than this statement, which summarily disposes of the reflections which have been made on the ridiculous supposition that the Queen's Government had pressed the offer of an asylum upon a Prince sitting secure on his throne.

Conceiving that the Pope did mean something by the remark he made to Mr. Odo Russell, the Foreign Secretary in October wrote to our Minister at Rome stating the views of the British Government on

the Roman question, and desiring that the despatch should be communicated to the Pope and his advisers. Certainly the language of this letter is frank. Earl Russell says explicitly that "her Majesty's Government are of opinion that Rome should be the capital of Italy." But the whole despatch is conceived in a spirit of goodwill to the Pope; reasons are assigned for the advice offered, and the Pope is not counselled to do anything inconsistent with his sacred character. Its reception by Cardinal Antonelli was of a very different kind from that which the public have been led to believe. The Cardinal knows that England strongly disapproves of the temporal power; but he knows that our opposition to it is honourable and public-spirited, founded on our views of what is demanded for the welfare of Italy, and without mixture of personal animosities or political rancour. Having heard Mr. Odo Russell read the despatch, he stated, with the calmness that was to be expected of a statesman, why the counsel tendered could not be accepted; he, however, did justice to the motives which had led our Government to act as it had done, characterised its offer as generous, and asked Mr. Russell to thank Earl Russell for it in the sincerest terms. The Cardinal, instead of saying in a theatrical manner, as M. La Tour d'Auvergne relates, that he had no use to make of a copy of Earl Russell's note, asked for one, that he might lay it before the Pope. The inquiries of Mr. Russell late in December, which have been represented as the unwarrantable intrusion of a most unpleasant subject upon the quiet of an old gentleman's Christmas holidays, had reference to this same despatch, and were made, not of the Pope, but of Cardinal Antonelli. Ten days later Mr. Russell paid a complimentary visit to the Pope, who took the opportunity of stating to him "that he had been gratified by the offers of hospitality made to him by her Majesty's Government," with other expressions of courtesy and goodwill. Such is the simple history of these transactions.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

General Burnside had definitively resigned the command of the army of the Potomac, and had been succeeded by General Hooker. General Sumner and Franklin had also resigned. General Burnside was to be examined before a Senatorial Committee concerning the interference of subordinate officers with his plans. General Franklin had demanded a court-martial to inquire into the alleged charges against him of tardiness and inefficiency. General Couch now commands the right of the army of the Potomac, General Mead the centre, General W. F. Smith the left, and General Sigel the reserve. Snow was six feet deep at Falmouth, and the roads impassable.

General Corcoran was reported to have defeated the Confederates under Pryor at Suffolk, Virginia. Southern papers say that the Federals are advancing from Newbern in two columns, one towards Kingston, the other towards Wilmington. A Federal fleet of ninety-two vessels was reported in Beaufort harbour.

The Federal forces in the south-west, combined for a third attempt to open the Mississippi, had commenced operations near the mouth of the Yazoo. General McClelland had left the Arkansas River and retraced his course to Young's Point, where it was reported that he had landed his troops. General Grant left Memphis on the 27th ult. to join General Sherman. General Goran had been recalled from the White River to unite in the operation. General McClelland's troops had recommenced work in the canal dug some months ago by the negroes under General Williams, with the intention of diverting the channel of the Mississippi from the bed of the river opposite Vicksburg. General Joseph Johnston, who commands the Confederates in the Western Department, had concentrated 150,000 men for the defence of Vicksburg. The Confederate fortifications at Port Hudson are stated to be most complete. It was thought that no immediate advance upon that point by the Federals would be made. It was rumoured that the Confederates had been defeated near Savannah.

At Philadelphia, Mr. Boileau, the editor of a newspaper, had been arrested by order of the Provost Marshal; and the Judge of quarter sessions had ordered the grand jury to suspend other business until they had inquired into the circumstances connected with the affair. The grand jury resolved to indict the parties concerned in the arrest. In the Legislature of New Jersey a resolution had been introduced demanding the restoration of General McClelland as the only means of saving the country from utter ruin.

The Confederate steamer *Orieto* had captured several American vessels. It was supposed that she had sailed for the East Indies.

The Federal gun-boats had engagements on the 14th ult., at Bayouche, Louisiana. The Federal commander was killed. No Confederates were captured.

The Finance Bill framed by the Committee of Ways and Means had passed the House of Representatives. Mr. Hinckman, of Pennsylvania, introduced a substitute for the bill of Mr. Thaddeus Stevens for the enlistment of 150,000 troops of African descent. The bill was warmly opposed by the Border States' representatives and the Democratic members. In the Senate, on the 27th ult., Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, violently denounced the policy and character of the President, calling him "an imbecile," and using other epithets. As Mr. Saulsbury persisted in his disorderly remarks, he was taken into custody by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and removed from the Senate. During the struggle Mr. Saulsbury exhibited a revolver, with threats of vengeance upon the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speaker, and other senators. A resolution was introduced by Mr. Clarke, of New Hampshire, the next day, to expel Mr. Saulsbury from the Senate. When the motion came up Mr. Saulsbury, whose friends assert that he was intoxicated at the time of his violation of the rules of the Senate, made an apology, and the matter was dropped.

THE PRINCE OF WALES was on Thursday elected a freeman of the Fishmongers' Company of London.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has ordered a medal to be struck to commemorate his marriage with Princess Alexandra. Messrs. Hunt and Roskill have been intrusted with its production, and Mr. Leonard C. Wyon has been honoured with a sitting, and is now busily engaged in engraving the medal, which will be issued in gold, silver, and bronze.

THE DUKE OF BRUNSWICK'S DIAMONDS.—Duke Charles of Brunswick is the possessor of one of the richest, if not of the very richest, collections of diamonds in the whole world, the value being calculated at more than £500,000. He has lately published a catalogue of his treasures, containing more than 268 quarto pages. Each diamond has its own history attached to it, and in an appendix he gives as well the history of some of the most celebrated diamonds existing in other collections. Of his own jewels, one has glittered in a Turkish clime, and, after many almost fabulous adventures, arrived at length in Europe, hidden in the rags of an apparently poor Jew. Another was the chief ornament of a Royal crown; a third sparkled on the breast of an Emperor, a fourth ornamented the cap of a Grand Duke. One black diamond, from the treasures of an Indian Prince, had for centuries served as the eye of an idol. A wonderfully beautiful rose diamond was once the property of the chief favourite of Sultan Baber of Agree; it weighs eight carats, and is said to be of incalculable value. A set of twelve solitary stones served as buttons to the Emperor Don Pedro's waistcoat. A ring containing a diamond of the purest water belonged to Queen Mary of Scotland; her coat of arms and the initials "M. S." are still to be seen on the setting. A pair of earrings, formerly glittered in the fair ears of the unfortunate Marie Antoinette. In this manner throughout the catalogue one curiosity follows the other. The Duke has a number of stones which are worth from £3000 to £6000 each, and some even worth £15,000. He is at present in negotiation for one jewel of the estimated value of £35,000, and for another of the value of £100,000. His Serene Highness is the slave of his treasures—he does not dare to leave Paris, nor even to sleep one night from home for fear he should be robbed. He lives in a house which has been built less for comfort than for security, being proof against both fire and thieves. The house is entirely surrounded by a high wall, on the top of which is an iron grating, from which hundreds of the very sharpest spears project. These are so arranged that on touching one of them an immense bell is rung, sufficient to wake the whole household. This apparatus cost him £2000, as it is of very curious construction. His diamonds are secured in a safe built into the wall, before which stands his bed, so that no thief can get at them during the night without first having awoke or murdered him. On the other hand, he can enjoy the sight of all his treasures without leaving his couch. As a further protection, the safe is so arranged that, in case an attempt were made to open it without the proper key, four loaded pistols would immediately discharge themselves into the breast of the robber, and a bell would begin to ring in each room of the house. The room has only one small window, and the bolts of the door are of the strongest iron, and can be opened only by those who are in the secret. A box containing a dozen revolvers, all ready loaded and capped, stands on the table.

IRELAND.

MALICIOUS OUTRAGE.—On the night of Saturday last, between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock, a breach was made in the bank of the Royal Canal, immediately near the bridge of the Downs, within three miles of Mullingar, where the canal runs nearly parallel with the public road, and on the opposite side to that on which a similar breach took place some three years since. On intelligence reaching the superintendent of the Mullingar Junction on Sunday morning he hastened to the place mentioned, and found a chasm in the south bank of the canal, extending from fifteen to twenty yards in length, through which the water was rushing with irresistible force. That this injury to the Royal Canal was wantonly and maliciously done does not admit of doubt. The crew of a lumber-boat, also, which passed that spot after eleven o'clock on Saturday night, heard the parties at work, who, as the boat drew near, decamped.

THE CONSCRIPT FATHERS OF BELFAST AGAIN.—The documents of which copies are subjoined were handed to the reporters in the Townhall on Saturday after the attempt at prizefighting which was made by two of our honourable municipal representatives. The authenticity of at least one of the documents is unquestionable—the MS. proves it to be genuine:—"Mr. R— presents his compliments to Mr. B—, and will be glad to box him to-morrow in the dreary slob at May's Fields at six o'clock." "Councillor B— presents his compliments in answer to Mr. R—'s challenge, and says that on every opportunity on which Mr. R— calls him a conspirator he will take satisfaction on the spot by knocking him down—the only answer he will give to such uncalled for improper name."

THE PROVINCES.

THE COVENTRY RIBBON TRADE.—The manufacture of wedding favours, to be worn on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, is being carried on very extensively at Coventry, and a very large demand is anticipated. Unfortunately the weavers of the city are not likely to derive that substantial benefit from the movement which they otherwise might do, and which the benevolent public were evidently anxious to secure for them, owing to the miserably low wages which are paid by certain of the manufacturers. A number of handbills, issued by weavers in the employ of several firms, have been in circulation, showing net weekly earnings by weavers of such sums as 3s. 1d., 3s. 3d., 4s. 6d., and 5s. 11d. The result of the slight agitation thus created has been that several manufacturers who were paying the worst price for work have given a small advance. The inhabitants generally of the city are at length becoming alive to the necessity of something being done to check the evil of low wages. The weavers would certainly be far better off with relief from the parish or from the fund than with work at the present rate of remuneration.

POACHING AFFAIRS.—On Friday night week a desperate encounter with poachers took place on the preserves of Mr. J. C. Musters, at Annesley, about eight miles from Nottingham. Four of Mr. Musters' gamekeepers, out watching in Annesley Park, perceived a gang of nine or ten poachers engaged in setting nets and beating about for game, and endeavoured to capture some of them. As soon as the poachers observed the keepers they commenced throwing stones, and a hand-to-hand encounter took place. The poachers were armed with forks, stakes, and bludgeons, and considerable violence was used on both sides. After the struggle had lasted about half an hour the keepers captured one of the gang, named James Yelsthorpe. The other poachers got clear away. On Saturday morning the prisoner was taken before the magistrates, his head being bandaged and his clothes saturated with blood. The Bench remanded him, the keepers being so severely injured as to be unable to attend.—Another affray took place the same night on the estate of General Hall, at Weston Colville, Cambridgeshire. Tibbrook, a gamekeeper, was out with a watchman named Hart, and, having heard shots fired, they shortly after found three poachers, armed, in one of the preserves. An attempt was made to capture the intruders, when a shot was fired at Tibbrook, which unhappily took effect, and blew away a nearly half his face. He lies in a very dangerous state. The police have apprehended a man named Joseph Biggs, residing in another parish, who would appear to have been wounded in the conflict, and one of his confederates.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

REIGATE.—The official declaration of the poll for this borough gives the following as the result of the election:—Leveson Gower, 345; Wilkinson, 233; majority for Gower, 112. It is stated that a petition will be presented against the return of Mr. Gower on the usual charges of bribery, &c.

CAMBRIDGE.—The election for Cambridge has resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Powell. According to the Liberal return the numbers at the close of the poll were—for Mr. Fawcett, 669; for Mr. Powell, 703.

DEVIZES.—Mr. Abrahams, a well-known member of the Marylebone vestry, has issued an address to the electors of Devizes, offering himself as a candidate for the vacancy caused by the death of Captain Gladstone. Mr. Abrahams declares himself in favour of a large extension of the franchise, of the vote by ballot, economy and retrenchment, peace and non-intervention, and of the freedom of mankind, of whatever race, religion, or colour. He will also support the abolition of church rates and the readjustment of the income tax.

HARWICH.—In anticipation of an early dissolution of Parliament Mr. Michael Willis, of Mecklenburgh-square, London, has issued an address to the electors announcing his intention to contest the borough.

LISBURN.—Mr. Edward Wingfield Verner, the son of Sir William Verner, has started as a candidate on the Conservative interest for the borough of Lisburn.

DUBLIN.—Sir Edward Grogan has announced his intention of retiring from the representation of Dublin city at the next election, and Mr. Benjamin Lee Guinness is to be requested to come forward in the Conservative interest.

BANDON.—The Hon. Henry Bernard has started for this borough in the Conservative interest, and will be opposed by Mr. Thomas Kingston Sullivan, solicitor, on the Liberal side.

OBITUARY.

COLONEL BERNARD, M.P. FOR BANDON.—The Hon. Colonel Bernard, member for Bandon, died at Queenstown on Friday week. He was the fourth son of the first Earl of Bandon, and was born in 1792.

CAPTAIN GLADSTONE.—Captain John Neilson Gladstone, M.P. for Devizes, expired on Saturday. He had been ill for some time, and his death was not unexpected. Captain Gladstone was the brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was prevented from taking his seat at the opening of the Session in consequence of attending his brother's death-bed. The deceased gentleman entered the Navy at an early age, and had attained the rank of Post Captain, but he had not sought active service for several years. He represented Devizes since 1852 in the Conservative interest, but had been in the House for other boroughs previous to that time. Though brother to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he did not follow the right hon. gentleman's changes of opinion, but remained through life a steady Conservative.

A PUBLIC MEETING AT NAPLES.—A "public meeting" on the subject of brigandage was held a few days ago in the Winter Garden at Naples, and attended by 2000 to 3000 persons. Count Ricciardi was in the chair, and on the stage by his side were several Franciscan friars, priests, and many of the principal members of what may be called the party of action in Naples. The proceedings were characterised by perfect order. France, or the Emperor, was treated by the speakers without mercy, which was the signal for the Consul to withdraw. England was described as the mistress of liberty, a sentiment which was received with shouts of applause. The deepest scorn and indignation, however, was reserved for the Church and its Ministers, and foremost in the attack were two priests, one a Canon. On the very evening of the day on which this meeting was held news arrived that the four officers who had been betrayed and murdered by Nicco Nanco had had their ears cut off and their hearts torn out, which were carried about on the points of bayonets amid cries of "Viva il Papa! Viva Francesco II.!"

STOPPAGE OF THE WORKS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—These works were suddenly put a stop to at eleven o'clock on Monday morning, in consequence of all the carpenters, between seventy and eighty, having struck for higher wages. These men are employed by Messrs. Myers and Son, the contractors for building the extensive temporary saloons at the west end of St. George's Chapel for the reception and accommodation of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra, and other Royal and distinguished personages who will attend the marriage ceremony. The men complain of the smallness of their wages, having been paid last week at the rate of 4s. 2d. per diem, whereas the Windsor master carpenters are paying their regular men more money, and the London rate of wages being 5s. per diem. The works have since been resumed, the employers having agreed to pay the men the rate of wages—4s. 6d. per day—which they asked for.

ARRIVAL OF THE GEORGE GRISWOLD.—The George Griswold, which was freighted from America with the food subscribed there for the distressed operatives in Lancashire, arrived at the mouth of the Mersey on Monday morning, and went up to Liverpool in the course of the day. Her coming was cordially greeted by a great concourse of people that had assembled, and, as had previously been arranged, all the port dues were remitted in her case.

BURNSIDE'S ARMY.—A batch of sentences have been pronounced by court-martial on soldiers for cowardice and skulking in the woods during the battle of Fredericksburgh. The punishment seems commonly to be service for the remainder of the term of enlistment at hard labour on public works, with forfeiture of pay. In one instance a 25lb. ball is to be fastened to the leg every second month. The correspondent of the *New York Times* says that such sentences may appear severe, but are no more than the exigencies of the service demand. "During some engagements skulking has attained to fearful proportions."

MARRIAGE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE PREPARATIONS.

The works which have to be got through in preparation for this ceremony at Windsor are progressing with great rapidity, though not, it is stated, so fast but that the artificers and decorators will eventually have to work day and night to get all ready by the appointed time. Even with such incessant labour, so much, it is said, has to be done that the race against time can only be gained by the sacrifice of ornamental details in the interior of the temporary buildings which on this occasion are to supplement the narrow dimensions of St. George's Chapel. All the tiers of benches in the nave of the chapel are finished. The magnificent oak carvings which filled the spaces between the knights' stalls and the communion-table have been removed with care, and laid by the side of the stiff effigies of the old Knights in the chapel, facing Sir Reginald Bray's. In place of these carvings, and stretching back into the aisle, the seats have been erected for the Ambassadors on the right of the dais, and on the opposite side for the more distinguished guests who have not places in the choir. The Knights of the Garter will be present at the ceremony, wearing their mantles and the insignia of the order. They will occupy their own stalls, the seats in the front being filled by the Ministers and great officers of State who are not Knights of the Garter.

Her Majesty will be present at the ceremony privately, and will take no part in any of the processions to the building. A covered way is being erected from the Dean's house to the entrance at the foot of the stairs which gives access to the quaint old Royal pew, built by Henry VII., situated high up in the wall, on the left of the communion-table. In this curious old oaken balcony, the windows of which are glazed in, her Majesty can witness the ceremony almost without being seen.

As already notified, Princess Alexandra will disembark at the terrace-pier, Gravesend, on the morning of Saturday, the 7th of March. No hour is fixed for the disembarkation, inasmuch as this is entirely dependent on the weather the squadron may meet in crossing the Channel and coming up the river. Every effort, however, will be made to bring the Royal yacht alongside the pier by one o'clock, or as soon after as the tide may serve. Nothing has yet been decided on as to the preparation which will be made at Gravesend on this occasion, but, from the splendour and good taste which have hitherto attended Royal arrivals and departures in this town, there is no reason to doubt that the townspeople will show how highly they appreciate an honour which half the kingdom envies them. The Gravesend terminus is to be beautifully decorated, and the Bricklayers' Arms station will also be dressed with scarlet cloth, and laid out with evergreens and clumps of flowering shrubs. On their arrival at this point the Royal pair will be met and welcomed by the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and Corporation, who will proceed in State to the station for that purpose. From this point, therefore, the procession will really begin. It will enter the City over London Bridge, and proceed thence along King William-street, Cheapside, Ludgate-hill, the Strand, and thence, we believe, by Regent-street and Oxford-street to Paddington. These main avenues will be closed for traffic for a short time before and after the procession passes; but such a stoppage late on a Saturday afternoon will cause very little inconvenience, and none which will not be most cheerfully endured on this day of public welcome. Guards of honour will accompany the procession throughout the line of route.

THE MARRIAGE TREATY.

The following is the substance of the treaty between her Majesty and the King of Denmark for the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, daughter of Prince Christian of Denmark, signed at Copenhagen, Jan. 15, 1863. The ratifications were exchanged at Copenhagen, Feb. 4, 1863, and the treaty has been presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty:—

In the name of the Holy and Blessed Trinity.

Be it known unto all men by these presents, that whereas her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on the one part, and his Majesty the King of Denmark on the other part, being already connected by ties of friendship, have judged it proper that an alliance should be contracted between their respective Royal houses by a marriage agreed to on both sides between his Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, &c., eldest son of her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra Caroline Maria Charlotte Louisa Julia, eldest daughter of his Royal Highness Prince Christian of Denmark;

The two high betrothed parties, as also his Royal Highness Prince Christian of Denmark, and her Royal Highness Princess Louisa Wilhelmina Frederica Caroline Augusta Julia, his Royal Highness's consort, having declared their consent to such alliance; in order, therefore, to attain so desirable an end, and to treat upon, conclude, and confirm the articles of the said marriage, her Britannic Majesty on the one part, and his Majesty the King of Denmark on the other, have named their respective plenipotentiaries, who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:—

Article I. It is concluded and agreed that the marriage between his Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, &c., eldest son of her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra Caroline Maria Charlotte Louisa Julia, eldest daughter of his Royal Highness Prince Christian of Denmark, shall be solemnised in person, in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Great Britain, according to the due tenor of the laws of England and the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, as soon as the same may conveniently be done.

Art. II. Her Britannic Majesty engages that his Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, &c., shall secure to her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louisa Julia, out of any revenues belonging to his Royal Highness, or granted to their Royal Highnesses by Parliament, the annual sum of £10,000, to be paid half-yearly to her Royal Highness for her sole and separate use, and without any power of anticipation, during the period of their Royal Highnesses' marriage.

Art. III. Her Britannic Majesty engages to recommend to her Parliament that her Majesty shall be enabled to secure to her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louisa Julia, in case her Royal Highness should have the misfortune to become the widow of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the annual sum or payment of £30,000 sterling money of Great Britain, in lieu of dower; the said sum being, in such case, to be paid by quarterly payments to her said Royal Highness or to her assigns.

CONVOCAION.—Convocation met on Wednesday. When the formal business was disposed of Archdeacon Denison brought forward a motion for the suspension of the standing orders in order that Convocation might consider what steps it ought to take in the matter of Bishop Colenso's book. The motion was agreed to. Archdeacon Denison then moved that an address be presented to the Upper House praying them to appoint a committee to examine the works of Bishop Colenso on the Pentateuch, with a view of reporting whether or not those books contained heresy. Two amendments were moved and lost, and eventually the original motion was carried. In the Upper House the Bishops were engaged in the discussion of the question of the increase of the episcopate.

THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION has just received a gratifying contribution of £251 15s., being sums collected in Hong-Kong and Shanghai, by favour of Messrs. Gilman and Co. and Mr. W. H. Harton, late Prime Warden of the Mercers' Company, and who is also a member of the committee of management of the Life-boat Institution.

A STONE, horseman's weight, is 14 pounds; a stone of butcher's meat, 8 pounds; a stone of iron, 14 pounds; a stone of glass, 5 pounds; a stone of hemp, 32 pounds; a stone of cheese, 16 pounds. Clear and simple, certainly.

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appears in a New York paper:—Confederate (Rebel) Money. Facsimile Rebel Treasury-notes, so exactly like the genuine that where one will pass current the other will go equally well. Five hundred dollars in Confederate notes of all denominations sent free by mail on receipt of five dollars, by W. E. Hilton, 11, Spruce-street, New York.

A YEAR'S INCREASE.—In the year 1862 there were 711,691 children born in England and Wales, the largest number ever born in this kingdom in a year, and amounting to no less than 1950 a day. 436,514 persons died, 1196 a day, a number which, in a then smaller population, was exceeded in 1854, 1851, and 1859. The result of the year may be represented thus:—Among every 10,000 persons 215 died and 350 new faces made their appearance. The most prolific population is found in the coal-producing districts of the north, in Staffordshire, and in the thriving ports on the Tyne and Wear.

THE FUNERAL OF THE BISHOP OF SIAM.

OUR Engraving represents the funeral of one of that brotherhood of devoted missionaries who have penetrated into the most remote lands, establishing not only a preaching station, but a Christian colony. The obsequies of this Christian Bishop, who has lately died, were ordered by the King of Siam himself to be conducted in a manner which should express the great respect of the Court, and the affection of the people who had been consigned to his pastoral care. Monseigneur Pallegoix had attained a high position as Bishop of Siam, and had won it by his unceasing efforts to maintain the Christian character. His funeral was the last expression of esteem by which the Government and the people could mark their sense of his worth. His remains, which were inclosed in a sort of sarcophagus, and placed beneath a splendid catafalque, were taken by native Christians to the Church of Cambodge, where the late Bishop commenced his missionary labours, a number of the Royal barges being sent as a convoy to the procession, and the King himself, with his family, occupying a steamer whence he took a last farewell of all that remained of him whom he had learned to respect so highly.

THE NEW BRIDGE OF MONT BLANC AT GENEVA.

OUR Engraving represents the handsome bridge which has just been completed at Geneva, and named after the giant mountain opposite which it crosses the Rhone at the bottom of the new street of the same name, its other extremity abutting on the Place du Port.

The necessity which existed for constructing the bridge between two open spaces, one on each side of the river, but not precisely opposite, must be considered the reason of a defect which at first sight is most unpleasing. The new bridge of Mont Blanc crosses the stream obliquely, so that it is far from being parallel with the Bergues bridge lower down. This might perhaps have been avoided by placing it in the middle of the street Mont Blanc; but such a plan would have involved a considerably larger structure, and, of course, a corresponding increase in the cost, which has already been stated at 1,200,000 francs.

The position of the bridge Mont Blanc has the effect of inclosing between itself and the Bergues the charming little island of Rousseau, so that the inhabitants of many of the adjoining houses have their view of it entirely shut out from their lower windows.

Notwithstanding these objections, however, the bridge is a fine addition to the public works of Geneva. It consists of twelve arches, supported by iron piers and girders erected upon piles, the abutments and masonry being built of stone from the quarries of the Jura. Each pier is surmounted with two handsome lamps, supported by pedestals engraved with the arms of the twenty-two cantons of Switzerland. There are in all thirty of these supplied by Messieurs Barbazet and Co., of Paris. The rapidity with which the bridge has been constructed is not a little remarkable, since ten months have sufficed for its entire completion. The engineers and projectors of the bridge are Messrs. Blotnitzki and Chantre. The contracts for materials were divided—the ironwork having been supplied by Messrs. Gourdon and Bétams and Messrs. Carteret and Co., and erected by M. Felix Durand. The masonry was placed under the direction of M. Charles Crivelli.

The ceremony of inauguration partook of the nature of a public national fête, since all the constituted authorities as well as the townspeople took part in it. A grand procession was formed in one of the public squares, and on arriving at the bridge, which was handsomely decorated with a triumphal arch at each end, the President of the Council announced its opening in an official speech. A salvo of artillery was fired to proclaim the end of this part of the ceremony, during which the cortège returned to the saloon of the Electoral Palace, where a banquet was served for a thousand guests. The festivities terminated at night by a torchlight procession and a general illumination.

A NUMBER OF ITALIAN OFFICERS have, it is said, demanded permission to proceed to Mexico for the purpose of following the operations of the French army.

A FEDERAL ZOUAVE was skedaddling from danger during the battle of Fredericksburgh, when a Lieutenant checked him with a drawn sword. Said the latter, "Stop, sir! Go back to your regiment, you infernal coward; you are not wounded." "For heaven's sake, let me pass!" implored the fugitive; "I know I'm not wounded; but I'm fearfully demoralised."

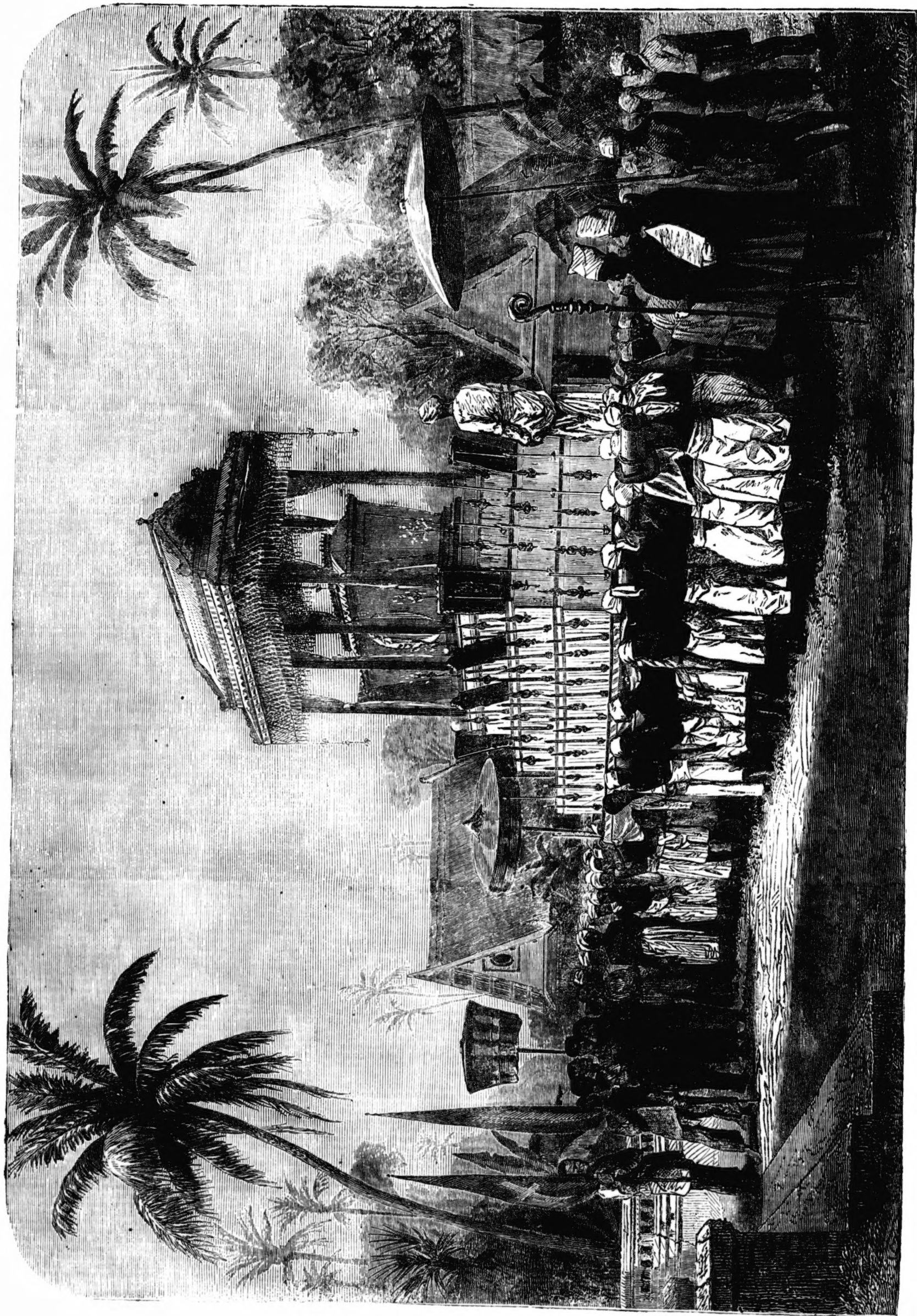
MR. F. W. GINGELL, of Wood House, East Ham, a few days ago was sitting at dinner with the family, when he observed to his father, "I have a presentiment that I shall die suddenly." The words were no sooner pronounced than his head drooped, and he expired without a groan or other indication of pain.

THE COCHIN-CHINESE HAVE RISEN AGAINST THE FRENCH AT SAIGON and attacked them with great fury and courage. After an obstinate and hand-to-hand contest the French succeeded in repulsing the Annamites with great loss. Ten days after the Cochin-Chinese attacked the French fort Mytho, but in this attempt they were also repulsed.

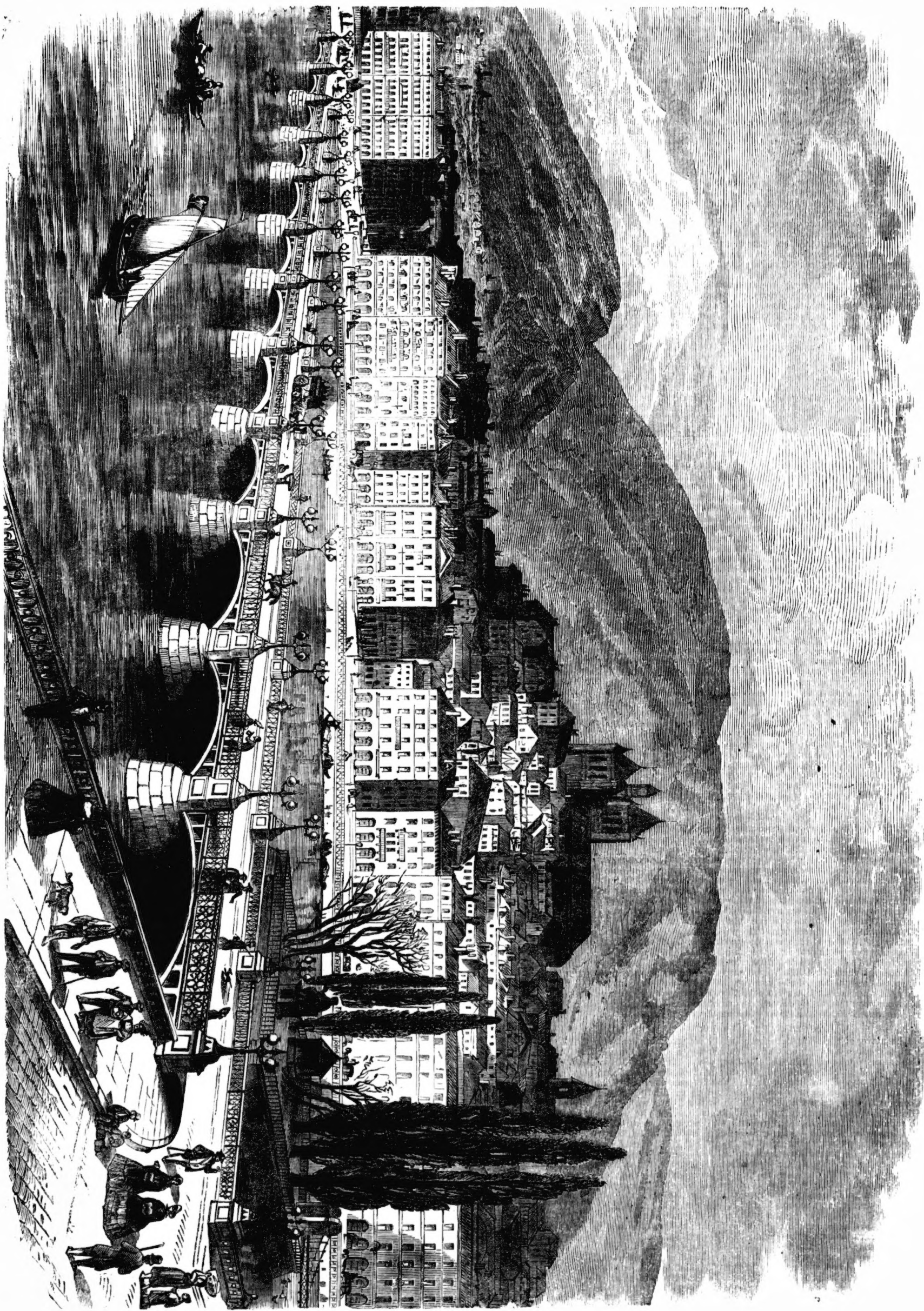
MR. LATHAM, general manager of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and Mr. Thomson, superintendent of the line, have been indicted for trial before the Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh on Monday, the 16th inst. The charges to be preferred against them are culpable homicide and culpable neglect of duty, which led to the dreadful catastrophe at Winchburgh a short time back.

A FRENCH COURT AND A GIANTESSE.—The Nantes Tribunal of Commerce lately gave judgment in an action, brought by a M^{me}. Foulle against Count de Roull, to recover 5000. for breach of contract, under the following curious circumstances:—Notwithstanding his aristocratic rank, to which it appears he is by birth entitled, the defendant has for some time past been travelling the country in a caravan exhibiting his Countess, popularly known as "La Belle Normande," in the character of a giantess. While recently exhibiting at Nantes, the Countess suddenly resolved to retire from public life; but the Count, unwilling to relinquish so lucrative a business, determined to find another phenomenon of the same kind, and, after some time, discovered what he wanted in the person of a widow named Foulle, a dealer in secondhand clothes, at Saumur. A bargain was concluded and duly signed, by which the widow, a woman of huge size, engaged to act in the threefold capacity of servant, dame de compagnie, and giantess, for a salary of 1500. per month, and one-fourth part of the sums collected from the spectators after each exhibition in the caravan. She was also bound never to go outside the caravan except very early in the morning or after dark at night. The agreement likewise contained a clause by which each of the contracting parties would incur a forfeit of 5000. in case of not fulfilling its conditions. The widow was duly installed in the caravan, but, owing to some difficulties raised by the Countess, she was discharged before appearing in her public character, and she in consequence sued the Count for the amount of the stipulated forfeit. The defendant alleged as his reasons for discharging the plaintiff that she was an indifferent cook; but the Tribunal—considering that cooking was not the principal object of her engagement, as was evident from the high salary promised, and that she had not failed as a giantess—decided that she was entitled to the forfeit, and condemned the defendant to pay the 5000., with costs of suit.

COTTON IN SENEGAL.—Accounts have been received in Paris from the French settlement in Senegal to Dec. 28. Several merchants had commenced cotton plantations on their own account, and others are about to imitate them. Cotton produced from seed sown in February last was gathered in November. The seasons are so regular in Senegal that cotton-growers do not find it necessary to irrigate their plantations. A number of farmers from Alsace had likewise arrived at Senegal to cultivate cotton, and had commenced operations. The French Government, in order to encourage the cultivation of cotton among the natives, had determined to place at the disposal of the chiefs of villages such instruments and machines as are best calculated for the cultivation and dressing of the cotton-plant. The Government has sent to Senegal an American ginning-machine, with cylindrical saws and keys like those of a piano. This machine was sent out by the Minister of Marine, and a press is likewise expected at St. Louis. The ginning-machine is hired out to the public for a trifling remuneration. It is stated that the cost of the carriage of raw cotton is diminished three-fourths by the use of this machine. The cultivation of cotton in Senegal is practised as it is in the Brazils—that is, by the cotton-tree, which lasts from eight to ten years—while in the United States the cotton is sown every year, and is gathered from the month of July until the plant is killed by the frost. As it never freezes in Senegal, the cotton-tree lives. Nevertheless, according as the tree grows old, the quality becomes deteriorated. On the other hand, the cultivation is less expensive, and demands less care, than cotton cultivated in the United States. An objection was raised against the cultivation of cotton in Senegal on the ground that the negroes, accustomed to the cultivation of the oil-nut (arachide) would not give up the cultivation of that crop with which they are acquainted for that of cotton, which is new to them. It is now ascertained, however, that the two crops, far from being injurious to each other, may be grown in the same plantation. In fact, while preparing the ground for the arachide, which does not rise higher than trefail, that cultivation prepares the ground for the cotton-tree, which does no injury to the arachide. Rows of cotton-plants may be sown in a field with arachides.—*Paris Letter.*



OBSEQUIES OF THE BISHOP OF SIAM.—ARRIVAL OF THE FUNERAL CORTEGE AT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FOR MESSRS. NEGRETTI AND ZAMBRA.)



THE BRIDGE OF MONT BLANC ACROSS THE RHONE, RECENTLY OPENED AT GENEVA.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 198.

A COMMISSION MAKES A HOUSE.

WHEN her Majesty does not open Parliament in person it is impossible to imagine anything more quiet and less imposing than the manner in which the House of Commons begins the duties of the Session. At the time appointed, usually at half-past one, Mr. Speaker enters the House in the usual form, and in his usual dress; he walks up to the table, prayers are read, and then he sits down quietly by the side of the Clerk Assistant and enters into a cozy chat with the members. He does not count the House as he does generally, for it is a rule that a "Royal Commission makes a House;" and as soon as Black Rod approaches the Commission is deemed to be present, and Mr. Speaker mounts into his proper seat, even though there be not forty members in the House. The philosophy of this rule, that "a Commission makes the House," is obvious. If it were necessary to have forty members when Black Rod is expected, that high functionary might possibly come down, find no House, and be obliged to return and report that the Commons could not appear to summons, and that, therefore, Parliament could not be opened, which would be a dreadful business indeed, as any one may see. Well, those wise old birds our ancestors, foreseeing all this, decreed that a commission should make a House. We may, however, here note that the wisdom of our ancestors did not see quite far enough. They should have decreed that the announcement of a commission should make the House, for sometimes it has happened that a commission has summoned the House, for the purpose of giving the Royal assent to certain bills, to appear at the bar by its representatives at a quarter to four, and members of the Government, taking advantage of the announcement, have not come down to make the House; and then we have had more than once a scene. Some one commissioner is late. Time creeps on, as it will do, in spite of Speakers, members, or commissioners; the hand of the clock is very near four, and yet we have neither forty members nor commission; and, if the hands cover the twelve before the commission arrive, Mr. Speaker must by an inexorable law count the members, and if the forty be not present must adjourn, and the Black Rod will arrive and find the House gone, and then the commissioners must go home, and her Majesty must appoint another commission for another day. It is true, as far as we know, that such an accident has never yet happened, but more than once it has been unpleasantly near. Two sessions ago Mr. Speaker, and the clerks, and the Sergeant-at-Arms were in an awful flurry; for Black Rod, announced at 3.45, did not come till past four, and at one minute to four there was no House. By dint, however, of tremendous exertions concentrated within the last three minutes of the time by dispatching messengers at the top of their speed to the public offices, and by scouring out all the offices and lobbies, the fortieth man was got in before the hand covered the central figure, and the catastrophe was averted; but it was a close shave.

CHANGES IN THE HOUSE.

There have been fewer changes in the House during the vacation than usual. For several years past the elections during the recess have averaged about fifteen. During the recess just ended we have had only seven. All the members elected have taken their seats. Mr. Cubitt, late Lord Mayor, we all know. This venerable gentleman has performed the uncommon feat of resigning his seat and regaining it for the same place in the same Parliament. The present Lord Mayor, who during the vacation has got himself elected for Southampton, appeared on the first day to take the oaths, and after he had been sworn, took his place above the gangway, on the Opposition side of the House, almost immediately behind Disraeli, from which we suppose that he has enrolled himself as one of the Conservative leader's staunch followers. He is a smart-looking man, somewhat short in stature; has a round, rubicund, good-looking face. His age we should take to be nearly fifty, albeit the whiteness of his hair, so carefully brushed and well kept, would seem to indicate that he is older. Mr. Pender, of Totnes, is short and thickest in person. He is a Manchester man. Report says that he began with nothing, and is now very rich. There ought to be some power in that well-developed head of his. Though a Manchester man, he is not, we hear, of the Manchester school. Mr. Grenfell is very tall, has dark hair and dark bushy whiskers. He has long been known at the House as the private secretary of Sir George Grey. Sir Edward Dering, of East Kent, is an old member. Mr. Alfred Seymour, of Totnes, brother of bustling little Mr. Henry Danby Seymour (who, by-the-by, wishes to be known as Mr. Henry Seymour, as he does not want to be confounded with a certain other Mr. Seymour who has the same initials) and in form and feature, is not unlike his brother. Let us hope that he has not the same tendency to loquacity; for that passion in his brother is sometimes troublesome to the House. Mr. Beresford, of Carlow county, we have not caught a sight of yet; and these are all our new members. On the whole, it is not a promising lot. We question whether they will either of them add much to the power of the House.

VACANCIES.

But, though we have not had many changes during the recess, there is a more than usually large number of elections to come off. Mr. Ball has retired from Cambridgehire, full of years, if not laden with honours, to finish a well-spent life in appropriate retirement. Cambridge borough is vacant by retirement of Mr. Stewart; Lieburn by retirement of Mr. Richardson; and Devonport also, which Admiral Sir Michael Seymour has vacated; and now there comes to us the said news that Captain Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's brother, is dead. This event makes a vacancy for Devizes. Old Colonel Bernard, of Bandon, whom from the whiteness of his head Mr. Augustus Stafford used to call Mount St. Bernard, is gathered to his fathers. This gentleman was the son of the first Earl of Bandon. What these elections will bring us it is impossible to foresee; but report says that Devonport is likely to send up notable Bousfield Ferrand, the fierce, fanatical Tory, famed for his audacious manner of speech and blatant, bull-like voice. Vice-Admiral Sir George Grey, first permanent Lord of the Admiralty, opposes Mr. Ferrand; but report says that the Conservatives have added considerably to the register since 1859, when Ferrand was beaten by only 23 votes.

MOVER OF THE ADDRESS.

The mover of the address to her Majesty to thank her for her "most gracious Speech" was the Hon. Frederick Henry Gough Calthorpe, eldest son of Lord Calthorpe, and M.P. for East Worcestershire. Mr. Calthorpe is a young man of thirty-six. He came first into Parliament in 1859. Usually gentlemen of Mr. Calthorpe's position prefer a strictly military costume if they have the right to wear one; and, as Mr. Calthorpe is a Lieutenant in the Gloucestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, it was expected that he would show in the uniform of that regiment. He preferred, however—for what cause we know not—the resplendent dress of that hybrid body of gentlemen, the county Deputy Lieutenants. And very grand he looked; but he would have appeared to still greater advantage if his tailor had been more proficient in his art. But Mr. Calthorpe carried his honours bravely, and walked into the House with as soldierly an air as if he had been to the manner born, albeit he is only a yeomanry and Deputy Lieutenant. But Mr. Calthorpe, it must be remembered, is the son of a Lord, and heir to a capital landed estate in hand, with one equally large in shape of leaseholds in Chelsea and Birmingham *in futuro*; and the consciousness of honours and property does always, as we know, tend to give a man an easy, aristocratic bearing. Mr. Calthorpe's speech was but so-so. It was a mere string of platitudes which, although they were delivered with graceful ease and some energy, fell but flatly upon the House. Disraeli at times looked cynical. The Conservative county gentlemen were rather disposed to smile than applaud; and not even the paid claqueurs of the Government could get up more than the faintest of cheers. But what matter? Mr. Calthorpe got through his task respectably. If there was not brilliant success, there was not failure. And what need has the heir to a peerage and a large estate for reputation for oratory? He would probably far sooner be reputed the best shot and the best rider in the county than enjoy the honour of having made a fine oratorical display.

THE SECONDER.

Mr. Bazley, the seconder, is a Manchester cotton-spinner and

merchant. In height he is gigantic—some 6ft. 4 in., we should say, at least; and as he walked into the House in his blazing Deputy Lieutenant's uniform, capped with a half-moon cocked hat surmounted with a bunch of white feathers rising stiffly out of the centre of the arch at least 6 in. higher, he really looked very grand. When we first caught sight of him at the door we involuntarily thought of the Pope's Swiss Guards and Frederick William's Potsdam giants. Mr. Bazley is a more practised speaker than Mr. Calthorpe; but his ideas did not seem to flow freely on this occasion, and certainly were not clothed so brilliantly as his person. However, he too "got through," and if he did not astonish neither did he weary the House. It was a matter of surprise that Mr. Bazley should yield to the temptation to second the address, for the hon. member came into Parliament as a member of the Manchester school, and follower of Mr. Bright; and, as we all know, there is a great gulf between his party and the Government, or, as one phrased it, "The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." But in justice to Mr. Bazley it ought to be said that there was nothing in his speech that compromised him. Neither is it our opinion that by seconding the address he has bound himself in any way to support measures which he does not approve. In the old Tory days, when George III. or IV. was King, every mover and seconder was deemed to be a pledged supporter of the Government. But times have changed; party discipline is not so rigorous now as it was then. "Open questions," not allowed then, are common now. Milner Gibson sits in the Cabinet with Lord Palmerston; the Radical member for Northampton holds place in a by no means Radical Government. The Treasury whip has lost half its terrors and potency, and perhaps some day we may see Mr. Cox in scarlet seconding an address.

BULLETIN.

And now a word or two on the appearance of the more prominent members of the Commons' House of Parliament. "How does Lord Palmerston look?" was the question upon a hundred lips on the opening day of the Session; and as the noble Lord marched across the lobby a hundred eyes examined him keenly. For a time after he entered the House he was scarcely observed, for he entered at the back door and glided unseen into his place, as his manner is. But soon he had to go to the bar, and then to the table, to present papers touching the Prince of Wales's marriage, and then every eye was fixed upon him. Cheers burst forth from his supporters when they saw that he walked as firmly as ever, and that to all appearance he was but little changed since he shook hands with the Speaker six months ago. Nor is it wonderful that we should be anxious about this old man's health, for he is in his seventy-ninth year, and upon his shoulders rests, it is now acknowledged, the whole framework of our party arrangements. Like Atlas, he alone holds up the structure; and when he shall fail all will collapse and sink into temporary ruin. Well, we too have scanned closely the noble Lord, and this is our report. He looks a shade older than he did; he does not walk quite so briskly as he did; but there is evidently "life in the old dog yet;" and, if any impatient young Conservatives are speculating to the tune of £1200 a year upon the noble Lord's failure this Session, we believe and hope that their speculations will fail. Fail! Why, the noble Lord has no thought of failing, for it was only the other day that he appeared in the hunting-field with a new scarlet coat. It is said, however, that the Marquis of Lansdowne's death affected him deeply; and some say that it has left its mark upon him. But *Flecti non frangere*—to be bent not broken—is his Lordship's heraldic motto; and he who has seen so many of his political friends fall in battle will hardly permit himself to be permanently depressed by the death of a comrade at the venerable age of eighty-two. All the other Ministers who have presented themselves seem to be hearty enough. Gladstone, however, has not appeared. He has been watching the deathbed of a beloved brother, opposed to him in politics, but none the less beloved for that, and is now mourning his loss. Disraeli, from Session to Session, changes but slightly; but, catching a glimpse of him with the mind's eye as he was ten years ago, we discern a great change. Time has thinned his hair. Those "corkscrew curls," which were celebrated in the witty parody in the "Dialogus Horatii et Lydie," have disappeared, and he, too, is evidently, albeit he is only in his fifty-eighth year, passing gradually into the shadow of old age. His colleagues on the front bench of the Opposition have not shown in their strength. Sir John Pakington came in for a few minutes, and in him we have to report no change. Lord Stanley is getting fat. Mr. Cobden looks better than he has looked for several years, and his confrère, Mr. Bright, is unchanged. Mr. Alexander Kinglake looks haggard and worn, but is, perhaps, as "well as can be expected" so soon after the birth of that tremendous book which he has just given to the world.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

The short sitting of the Lords was occupied in a discussion on the volunteers, in the course of which Earl DE GREY said Government intended to propose a measure to substantially carry out the recommendations of the volunteer commission, but it was not convenient to anticipate the Secretary for War, who would enter into full explanations when he moved the Estimates.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DISPUTE WITH BRAZIL.

Mr. LAYARD entered into an explanation of the circumstances that led to the difficulty with the Brazilian Government, and promised that all the papers should be promptly laid before the House.

NEW BILLS AND NOTICES OF MOTION.

Sir J. Trevelyan obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish church rates. Mr. NEWDEGATE gave notice that on Tuesday he should ask for leave to bring in a bill for the commutation of those rates. Mr. HADFIELD obtained leave to bring in a bill to render it unnecessary to make and subscribe certain declarations as a qualification for office; and Mr. DILLWYN for a bill to amend the law relating to endowed schools.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.

Lord WROTTESEY inquired whether the Government proposed to introduce any measure for carrying out the recommendations of the Education Commissioners as to charitable endowments?

Lord GRANVILLE did not think it advisable that the functions of the Charity Commissioners should be transferred to the Educational Committee of the Privy Council, for he much doubted whether Parliament would agree to the recommendation. Other suggestions of the Commissioners were still under the consideration of the Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend and continue the law relating to corrupt practices at elections, briefly explaining the proposed alterations.

Suggestions for the improvement of the measure were offered by Mr. Hunt, Mr. Childers, and Lord R. Cecil; and, after a few remarks by Sir F. Goldsmid, Mr. Hadfield, and Mr. Griffiths, leave was given to introduce the bill.

THE DISMEMBERED MILITIA.

Sir G. C. LEWIS moved that it is expedient to discontinue the practice of appointing a Select Committee to prepare estimates of the charge of the dismembered militia of Great Britain and Ireland, and that such estimates be in future prepared on the responsibility of Ministers of the Crown. He stated his reasons for proposing a departure from the present practice, which involved more inconvenience and less responsibility on the part of Ministers than the course he suggested.

After some observations by Colonel Dunne, Colonel Gilpin, Sir H. Willoughby, General Peel, and Colonel Dickson, the resolution was agreed to.

THE GREEK THRONE.

Lord PALMERSTON announced, in answer to Mr. H. Seymour, that the communications with the Duke of Saxe-Coburg as to the throne of Greece had been preliminary and private, and that the Duke had declined to be put in nomination for the throne.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN IRELAND.

Sir R. PEEL asked leave to introduce a bill for the establishment of a system of registration of births and deaths in Ireland similar to that which is in action in England. A short discussion took place on the motion, which was ultimately agreed to.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

On the motion of Mr. H. SEYMOUR the Select Committee of last Session on the present state of the Ecclesiastical Commission was reappointed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TICKETS OF LEAVE.

Earl STANHOPE called attention to the changes that have recently been made by the Home Secretary in the system of tickets of leave.

Earl GRANVILLE said the alteration applied to those persons who, having once held tickets of leave, had been reconvicted and could not be allowed the privilege a second time. The noble Earl also, in reply to questions from several noble Lords, gave some further explanations respecting the recent changes.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in reply to Sir F. Kelly, stated that the Government were not aware of the necessity of making any material amendment in the law of bankruptcy; but experience had convinced them that it was desirable to effect certain alterations which should include the appointment of a Chief Judge in Bankruptcy.

NEW BILLS.

Leave was given to introduce bills relating to affirmations, to illegitimacy in Ireland, to the voluntary redemption of church rates, and to the law regarding the jurisdiction of the Benchers of the Inns of Court.

POLAND AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

In reply to questions put by Mr. Hennessy, Mr. Griffiths, and Mr. Peacocke,

Lord PALMERSTON, in reference to Polish affairs, stated that no proposal was made by Austria to England and France during the Crimean War for re-establishing a separate kingdom of Poland; but, on the contrary, any such arrangement would have been one to which Austria would have entertained insurmountable objections. The Ionian Islands had not been ceded to this country as a possession of the British Crown. By the Treaty of Vienna in 1815 they were reconstituted a separate and independent Republic, which was placed under the protection of the Crown; and there was no doubt that the Crown by its own authority, and without the consent of Parliament, could enter into a treaty for their alienation. No step in that direction had, however, yet been taken; and he concurred with Mr. Peacocke that another condition of their annexation to Greece was indispensable, and that was that that kingdom should undertake by treaty not to surrender them to any other State.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SALMON FISHERIES IN IRELAND.

Mr. McMAHON moved the second reading of a bill the object of which was to assimilate the law of Ireland to that of England, by abolishing "fixed engines" for the capture of salmon in the tidal rivers of Ireland.

To this an amendment was moved by Mr. BUTT, to the effect that any legislation on the subject should be preceded by a full and complete inquiry either by a Royal commission or a Committee of the House.

After some discussion, Sir R. PEEL said if the member for Wexford would withdraw his bill he was prepared, on the part of the Government, to introduce this Session a measure giving additional powers to the commissioners in regard to opening gaps in rivers and estuaries and making the proprietors of weirs pay for them.

After some further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. Newdegate obtained leave to bring in a bill to establish a charge in lieu of church rates, for the commutation thereof, and to afford facilities for the provision of other funds applicable to the purposes of the church rates.

Lord Raynham also obtained leave to bring in a bill for the better prevention of aggravated assaults upon women and children.

LORD EBURY has introduced a bill into Parliament to amend the Acts of Uniformity, and proposes to repeal one of two declarations required to be taken by clergymen, and that the following one shall be deemed sufficient:—"I, A. B., do declare that I will conform to the Liturgy of the United Church of England and Ireland, and it is now by law established."

EARLY ON MONDAY MORNING a heavy goods-train on the Bow extension of the Blackwall Railway ran off the line. The report of the accident describes great damage as having been done to the brickwork of the railway, and to the goods in the train; but no lives were lost nor personal injury sustained.

INCOMBUSTIBLE CLOTHING.—At the last meeting of the French Academy of Sciences a very important communication, accompanied with specimens, was received from M. A. Chevallier, jun., in which he announced that he had been for some time engaged in seeking some practical method for rendering wearing apparel incombustible; and that he had been so far successful as to render very light stuffs unflammable, although they carbonise when they come into contact with flame. He had further endeavoured to find substances which might be used for dressing stuffs to render them incombustible without altering the colour, and had succeeded, except with certain blues, which require peculiar precautions. The specimens sent in consisted of pieces of unprepared stuff and corresponding ones rendered unflammable. M. Chevallier promised shortly to communicate to the academy the methods he employed to attain the desired end, and which he considered easy enough to be carried into practice by all washerwomen and other persons of similar trades.

VALUABLE SCRIPTURE MSS.—The Imperial Library of St. Petersburg has just purchased the celebrated collection of Hebrew and Samaritan manuscripts formed by M. Firkovitch, a Carait himself, who is well known for his scientific zeal, and who during thirty years in his numerous travels in Palestine, the Caucasus, and at Constantinople had collected the memorials of Jewish antiquity wherever he could find them, at the expense of his fortune, and often at the risk of his life. (The Caraites are a Jewish sect opposed to the traditions of the Talmud.) The collection consists of 47 manuscript rolls of the Pentateuch, 77 collections of the Old Testament, 23 translations in Eastern languages, 272 Caraitic and 523 Rabbinitic works, 550 historical letters or documents, 722 funeral inscriptions, and 300 plans of the ancient fortresses of New Russia. It also contains 124 authentic manuscripts of the Old Testament, of which 21 are anterior to the ninth century. According to the opinions of M.M. Tischendorf, Dora, Bekker, Ohlschlaussen, and Choolson, no European library possesses Hebrew manuscripts of so early a date, and consequently can furnish such rich materials for the complete study of the text of the Old Testament, or present so much historical and geographical information upon the Crimea, the Khazars, the Greek colonies of the South of Russia, &c. A detailed history of the collection is in progress.

ACCLIMATISATION IN AUSTRALIA.—A New Zealand journal, speaking of two white swans presented by the Queen to that colony, and which were placed on the North Shore Lake, says that they were sitting on no fewer than eighteen eggs. The swans had been hatching alternately for three weeks. One of the Canadian geese, which came with the swans, and from the same Royal donor, flew away some time after being placed on the lake, but the remaining bird took up with the common geese, and the result has been a magnificent cross. The divers are doing well. In Victoria measures are in progress for the speedy introduction and acclimatisation of roeder, partridges, rooks, hares, sparrows, and song-birds, from England; deer, cashmere goats, and black partridges, from India; ostriches, pheasants and partridges, and antelopes, from the Cape of Good Hope; for all of which the money has been remitted by the Acclimatisation Society. A letter was recently received by the Acclimatisation Society of New South Wales from Mr. Black, of Miami, enclosing a sample of wool from an angora goat descended from those that were imported some years ago into this colony. Mr. Black, who has paid much attention to improving the breed of goats, states that their wool and fat are exceedingly valuable; that their flesh is in no way inferior to mutton, but rather resembling venison; that the females breed twice a year, producing generally two at a birth; that they require very little shepherding, and thrive well where nothing else could be kept with profit.

GERMAN CHORALES.—It was the Lutheran chorale which first embodied the expression of sublime and devotional feeling in congregational music. Whereas, in the Romish Church the musical service was chiefly a performance to which the worshipper listened inactively. The early Protestants largely advocated and encouraged congregational singing. They seem to have thought, Luther especially, with a quaint old writer, that "when Christians sing all together in some easy tune accommodated to the words of their praise, and not likely to take off their attention from sense to sound, then experience shows they sing most lustily (as the Psalmist expresses it), and with the best good courage. The symphony of voice and the sympathy of heart may flow through the whole congregation, which is the finest music to truly serious persons, and the most acceptable to God of any in the world." This opinion will be shared by all who have heard in the vast churches of Germany the grand old chorales sung in unison by the whole congregation to the accompaniment of a large organ; it is the highest and purest expression of the combined religious feeling of a multitude of worshippers. Those who have not heard them in the churches of Germany can scarcely fail to have noticed in Mendelssohn's oratorio "St. Paul" the sublime effect of "Sleepers, wake," which is, in fact, the Lutheran chorale "Wachet auf." The symphony of brass instruments at the end of each strain represents the little interlude (Zwischen-Spiel) which the German organists are accustomed to play at the close of each musical phrase; the object of such interpolations being to give breathing time to the singers after the exhaustion of the long-sustained notes of the tune. Again, Meyerbeer, in his opera "Les Huguenots," has made frequent use of the chorale "Ein festes Burg ist unser Gott," a tune which was for so many years the watchword of religious freedom in Germany. The Lutheran chorales collected (and in some instances composed) by Luther himself formed the models on which many of our early English church melodies were framed; and in proportion as this high and pure standard has been departed from, the sublimity and propriety of English psalmody have been lost sight of.—*London Review*.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1863.

PRIZEFIGHTERS AT HOME.

It is not very long ago that mere animal courage and endurance was sought by many of our contemporaries to be exalted as an important branch of ethics. The practice of prizefighting was to be elevated into the means of promotion of high moral and even social virtue. It was supposed to be specially the foundation of a chivalrous gallantry. The lessons of the ring, although taught by those whom it had become customary to slight as uneducated ruffians, were to be studied as pre-eminently calculated to promote the noblest traits of English character, and the successful pugilist was held up to public admiration as a hero.

Our police reports tend to disperse many popular illusions by casting upon them the strong reflection of fact. It has recently been exemplified that the cultivation of combativeness by men in no way tends to the development of the nobler attribute of gentleness towards the weaker sex. Last week, at Southwark, a prizefighter named Carroll was sentenced to four months' hard labour for brutally assaulting his wife, whom he had knocked down and kicked until she became insensible. The redoubtable Tom Sayers himself has appeared before a magistrate under circumstances certainly little creditable to the theory which would set out with upholding gladiatorial skill and endurance as the basis of manly qualification. The story is miserable enough, if we are to believe the statement of the unhappy woman who filled the position of his wife. By her account, which the ex-champion of England does not appear to have attempted to contradict in its material points, this bright British exemplar, on his return home drunk, broke up her furniture, took possession of her trinkets, and kicked her into the street. He afterwards came into court to sign his name by a cross and obtain a decision against her, by which she was bound to keep the peace towards him and the Queen's subjects generally for six months. No doubt there were faults on both sides, and, as the magistrate observed, the story, "if true, was not very creditable to either party."

It is not, however, with the domestic difficulties of Mr. Thomas Sayers that it becomes the duty of the publicist to deal. It would be as vain and idle to maintain that because a man happens to be a professional pugilist he must of necessity be ignorant, cruel, and immoral, as to argue that one who would shrink from a fair contest is therefore more likely to become a valuable member of society. But such cases as those to which we have briefly alluded may at least tend to modify our approval of the incongruity which has received the title of "Muscular Christianity." They may teach us that our admiration may be thrown away when lavished upon mere animalism unennobled by proof of other gifts than those of the courage of the bulldog combined with the strength of the bull. We have had pugilism held up as the antidote to ruffianism. It is now proved that it is at least not so always. We are, therefore, now free to contemplate, without the danger of being cried down by muscular Christians, the British pugilist as he really exists among us at this day, and to consider whether his art is one to be commended as tending to the development of the higher faculties. Tom Sayers had nearly succeeded in rendering the ring fashionable. He has now been perfectly successful in relegating it to that degree of public estimation which it held before the famous fight for the championship. His feats have called into existence at least one, if not more, public exponent of the opinions, the ways, and the deeds of the class of which he was the brightest example. His name has been quoted freely enough in illustration of one side of an argument which his followers and familiars have been allowed to have pretty much their own way. He has concluded his mission by leading the way to a revulsion of sentiment which will render it difficult—at least for some time to come—to regard the ring as an institution of which Britons may justly feel proud. The patrons of the prizefight, with its concomitants of disorder, rascality, and blackguardism, have lost the excuse which the deeds of Tom Sayers were supposed to confer, but which his own acts have now withdrawn utterly and irretrievably.

GENERAL FLEURY has just addressed to the Emperor a report upon the condition of native horses in France, which he describes as having attained a very high degree of perfection. It will be no longer necessary, he says, for persons seeking handsome horses to buy them in foreign markets. He hopes that the Emperor and the other members of the Imperial family will set a good example by patronising the French breed.

IN A BUNDLE OF CLOTHING sent to the Manchester dépôt was a boy's cap with a letter attached to it, addressed "For an orphan or motherless boy." On opening the letter a shilling was found inclosed, and the following touching epistle:—"May the youthful wearer of this cap meet its late owner in heaven. He was beautiful and good, and was removed by an accident from this world to a better. A weeping mother's blessing be on the future wearer of her bright boy's cap. Nov. 22, 1862."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES will spend the first fortnight of their honeymoon at Osborne.

PRINCE LOUIS OF HESSE has been paying a visit to Birmingham, and inspecting some of the most important manufactories in the town.

THE MARQUIS OF AILESBERY, it is announced, is to be appointed Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire in place of the late Lord Lansdowne.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON has been created a K.C.B.

LORD STRATHEDEN and CAMPBELL has notified his intention of assuming henceforth the title of Lord Campbell only, though somewhat lower in precedence than the barony of Stratheden, which he inherited from his mother.

THE MAYORESS OF SOUTHAMPTON has composed and published a piece of music, which is dedicated, by permission, to Lady Palmerston.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, while out hunting on Saturday last, met with a serious accident. His horse fell, and his Grace was pitched upon his head and shoulder, and sustained severe injuries upon his neck, back, and left shoulder.

SIR GEORGE GREY has resolved upon a change in the ticket-of-leave system. In all future cases a prisoner under a second sentence of penal servitude is to be denied any remission of the full term of incarceration.

THE HANGERS at the approaching exhibition of the Royal Academy are Messrs. Frith, Charles Landseer, and the veteran Mr. Abraham Cooper.

M. RATAZZI, lately head of the Italian Ministry, was married a few days ago to the Countess de Solms, née Bonaparte-Wyse.

THE STEWARD of the Emperor Napoleon's possessions at Civita Nuova, in the Marches, has, in the name of the Emperor, subscribed 5000*l.* towards the relief of the sufferers from brigandage.

A PEARL valued at £20,000 will be exhibited at the Ottoman National Exhibition.

PRINCE DE POLIGNAC, the son-in-law of Miris, has been charged by the French Government with an important mission, and he will shortly start for Mexico.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has offered his good services to the Government of Rio Janeiro to smooth the difficulties with England.

THE MARQUIS AVITABILE, Governor of the National Bank of Naples, was recently captured by brigands in his own garden, within view of Naples, and had to pay a ransom of 80,000*l.*

THE SECRETARY of the HARTLEY COLLIERY RELIEF FUND states that the £70,000 subscribed for the Hartley sufferers is safely invested in available securities, except £5500 in the bank and £5500 which has been distributed.

FATHER PASSAGLIA is not to take his place in the Italian Chamber. He has decided upon retaining the chair of theology in the University of Turin, and, the number of professors admissible to the Chamber being filled up, he will have to resign his office of deputy.

AFTER A GOOD DEAL OF DISCUSSION as to the abolition of the post of General Commanding the Guards, or of the Lieutenant-Colonel of each regiment, it has been finally determined to retain both.

THREE HUNDRED ARABS are to be sent from Algeria to Mexico for service in the French army.

A CHEMIST writes to the papers to say that carbonate of lime, or common whiting, applied moist immediately after the accident, is an excellent cure for burns or scalds.

ELIZA FLEURY, Béranger's "Lisette," has just died in a Paris hospital, seventy-one years old. For some time previous to her death she lived in a poor attic, on ten halfpence a day, the produce of her handwork.

SOME IDEA of the enormous number of railway employes in this country may be formed from the fact that there are 3000 persons in the employ of the South-Western Railway Company.

MR. W. F. WINDHAM has started as coach proprietor. He has commenced a daily service between Norwich and Cromer, and occasionally drives the coach himself.

AT THE MOUNTAIN ASH COALPIT, near Aberdare, a violent explosion occurred on Saturday evening, and thirteen men who were at the time in the pit are supposed to have been killed.

THREE OF THE POWER-MILLS at LOW WOOD, near Ulverston, blew up last week, when three persons were killed and four others much injured.

MR. HESLOP, a farmer, residing near Newcastle, had some pigeons stolen recently, and a few days afterwards he received an anonymous letter of thanks—and the bones.

A STATUE to the memory of the late Duke of Bedford is to be erected in front of the Townhall, Tavistock.

THE SUBSIDY to the Galway line of steam-packets is to be restored so soon as the company have an efficient fleet in readiness to undertake the mail service.

A BOSTON (AMERICAN) JOURNAL is said to be printed on paper made of wood. The paper is white, smooth, even, tough, and as soft as common rag-paper. It also takes water as well as that made from rags. A further material for paper-pulp has been discovered in the fibre of the Hibiscus Moschotes, an indigenous tree which grows in great quantities throughout Pennsylvania, and is said to yield seven tons per acre.

THE MAIL OF THE COLOMBO, which was wrecked, contained, it is estimated, about 100,000 letters, and about the same number of newspapers. There are often between 4000 and 5000 registered letters on board such a packet.

MRS. BEECHER STOWE, stimulated by the success which attended the dramatic versions of her "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in the London theatres, has herself written a drama upon the subject, which is likely to be played in England.

VICTOR HUGO has two new tragedies on the stocks—one entitled "Torquemada," the other "Les Jumeaux de la Reine"—referring to "The Man in the Iron Mask."

PRINCE ALFRED IS EXPECTED HOME NEXT WEEK. He recently gave a grand ball on board ship to the Neapolitan ladies. It is intended that the Prince shall serve the two years necessary to qualify him for the rank of Commander, under the command of Captain Count Victor Gleichen, in the Ragoon, of 22 guns, now fitting for sea at Portsmouth.

THE DEPOSITS IN THE IRISH SAVINGS BANKS scarcely average 10*s.* per head of the population, while in England they average £2 per head.

THE MARRIAGE IS ANNOUNCED OF MR. GRAHAM, a medical man at Dundrum, Ireland, with a Miss Rattle, daughter of a solicitor in the county of Limerick. Some months ago the bride was the successful suitor in a breach of promise case against the husband.

THE TYROL celebrated on the 26th ult. the five hundredth anniversary of its connection with the Austrian empire. The day was kept by special Divine services in all churches, by speeches, balls, masquerades, and other festivities.

NEGOTIATIONS have been opened between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Imperial Government for the purchase, by the latter, of the company's charter. For the time the extravagant price demanded by the company—not less than £1,500,000 sterling—forms an obstacle in the way of an arrangement.

THE DRESS OF MISS FENTON, one of the corps de ballet at Sadler's Wells Theatre, caught fire on Monday night just before the close of the pantomime, and, though prompt assistance was given, the poor creature was so much burnt as to render recovery almost hopeless.

AN ILLITERATE OVERSEER on an estate in Jamaica wrote home to the proprietor for "twelve dozen men's, women's, and children's hose." He meant hoes, to till the ground with; but of course stockings were sent out.

IN THE PARISH CHURCHYARD OF WARE, Herts., is a tomb on which is the following inscription:—"In Memory of William Mead, M.D., who departed this life the 28th of October, 1852, aged one hundred and forty-eight years, nine months, three weeks, four days."

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT have given orders for the construction of two very powerful astronomical telescopes, embracing all M. Foucault's improvements. They are to be made under the supervision of the Academy of Sciences, and will be used at Marseilles and Montpellier, where the atmosphere is extremely pure.

THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT OF AMERICA have succeeded, it is said, in concluding a loan for about five millions sterling, through the Paris and Frankfurt houses of Erlanger and Co., in conjunction with leading capitalists in London and Liverpool.

A COURT OF INQUIRY (under the presidency of Brigadier-General the Hon. A. Gordon) has been opened in investigating a case of disreputable practical joking in the 4th Hussars.

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES AND THE ADMIRALTY have recently been engaged in observations upon the tides off the Straits of Dover with the view of determining the exact spot at which Julius Cæsar landed on our shores!

THE STEAMER BUSSORAH, Captain Gray, left the Clyde for Calcutta on the 16th ult., with a general cargo and a crew of thirty passengers; and, as fragments of her boats and fittings have been washed ashore on the Isle of Ilay, it is conjectured that she has foundered and that all hands must have perished.

THERE HAS BEEN A DECREASE of 43,959 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the twenty-seven unions composing the manufacturing districts between the 5th of December last and the 9th inst. There is still, however, 188-0 per cent more persons receiving relief than in the corresponding week of last year.

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT are said to be in possession of a gun-cotton secret, having, by experiment, overcome the difficulties which the nature of the material, as at first discovered by Schönbein, opposed to its use in artillery practice. The Austrians, moreover, have discovered a metal—iron, copper, spelter, and tin—which, in certain proportions, is tougher than any gun-metal hitherto devised.

KOSCIUSKO'S INSURRECTION.

KOSCIUSKO'S insurrection in 1791 forms certainly the most glorious episode in modern Polish history. Although, when the first partition of Poland (1772) was imminent, bands of "Confederates" were formed all over Poland for the purpose of driving out the Russian troops who had occupied Warsaw since 1764, the whole country did not rise with anything like union until after Russia and Prussia had interfered to destroy the Constitution, which they knew would be the saving of Poland. Several actions were fought against the invaders of 1792, which, but for the interference of the vacillating, weak-minded, if not absolutely treacherous King, might have been attended with good results; but it was not until 1794 that any really well-organised attempt at a general insurrection was made. Kosciusko, long before he earned immortal glory in this campaign, had greatly distinguished himself in the American War of Independence, and there he has given his name to a fort in the United States which, with singular inappropriateness, is now used as a State prison.

Kosciusko took part in the battles of Saratoga and Yellow Springs, after which Washington gave him the command of a brigade. He was afterwards made Governor at West Point, and held that appointment until 1783, when, peace being declared between the United States and Great Britain, he returned to Poland.

It should never be forgotten in the present day, when so much is said about the rights of the peasantry in Poland and Russia, that Kosciusko thought quite as much of alleviating the lot of the most numerous and least fortunate class of his countrymen as he did of freeing his country from foreign rule. In the manifesto published by him at Cracow, in 1794, he proclaimed a considerable diminution in the task-work of all the serfs, and ordered that all those who joined the insurrection should have their own portions of land cultivated for them until their return, or an equivalent paid in money for whatever losses they might have sustained by their absence from home. Our engraving represents Kosciusko at the head of his infantry before leaving Cracow to attack the Russians. He swore to clear his country of invaders or perish in the attempt, and so far kept his vow that he was all but mortally wounded when he fell into the hands of the Russians at the battle of Masielowice, which is known to have been fought against greatly superior numbers. Some persons seem to imagine, from Campbell's well-known line,

And Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell

(a line, by-the-way, which to a Polish ear is quite unmetrical, as "Kosciusko" is a word not of four but of three syllables), that, because he fell, he never got up again. Others (including many writers of high reputation) show themselves equally ill-informed when they repeat the old and perfectly untrue story of the Polish hero having exclaimed on his last battle-field, "Finis Poloniæ!" This, indeed, would have been a strange exclamation for him to make; for, in the first place, Latin was not his habitual language; in the second, he believed less than any one that Poland was at an end; and, in the third, his terrible wound rendered him unconscious and unable to speak.

After remaining for two years a captive in the dungeons of St. Petersburg, Kosciusko was liberated by the Emperor Paul, in company with nearly twenty thousand other Polish captives. Kosciusko, however, never appeared again in action. He put no faith in the promises of Napoleon, and lost all confidence in Alexander I. when he found that the Russian Emperor had no intention of forming the whole of the Polish provinces under his sceptre into one kingdom. Kosciusko had begged the Emperor Alexander to do this, and to grant to the new kingdom (which would have been almost as great as the Poland of 1772, and in time would assuredly have gained from the Germans its ancient limits) "a Constitution resembling that of England." Two years after the formation of the little kingdom of Poland, from which (restricted as it was within intolerably narrow limits) it was clear that no good could come, Kosciusko died. He is buried in the Cathedral of Cracow, and a tumulus in the ancient Slavonian style has been raised in his honour immediately outside the city. The foundation of the Kosciusko tumulus was laid in 1820, on the anniversary of the Polish patriot's death; and in 1846 it fell into the hands of the Austrians, who, with characteristic brutality, have made it the site of a fort.

THE PRINCE OF WALES TAKING HIS SEAT AS A PEER.

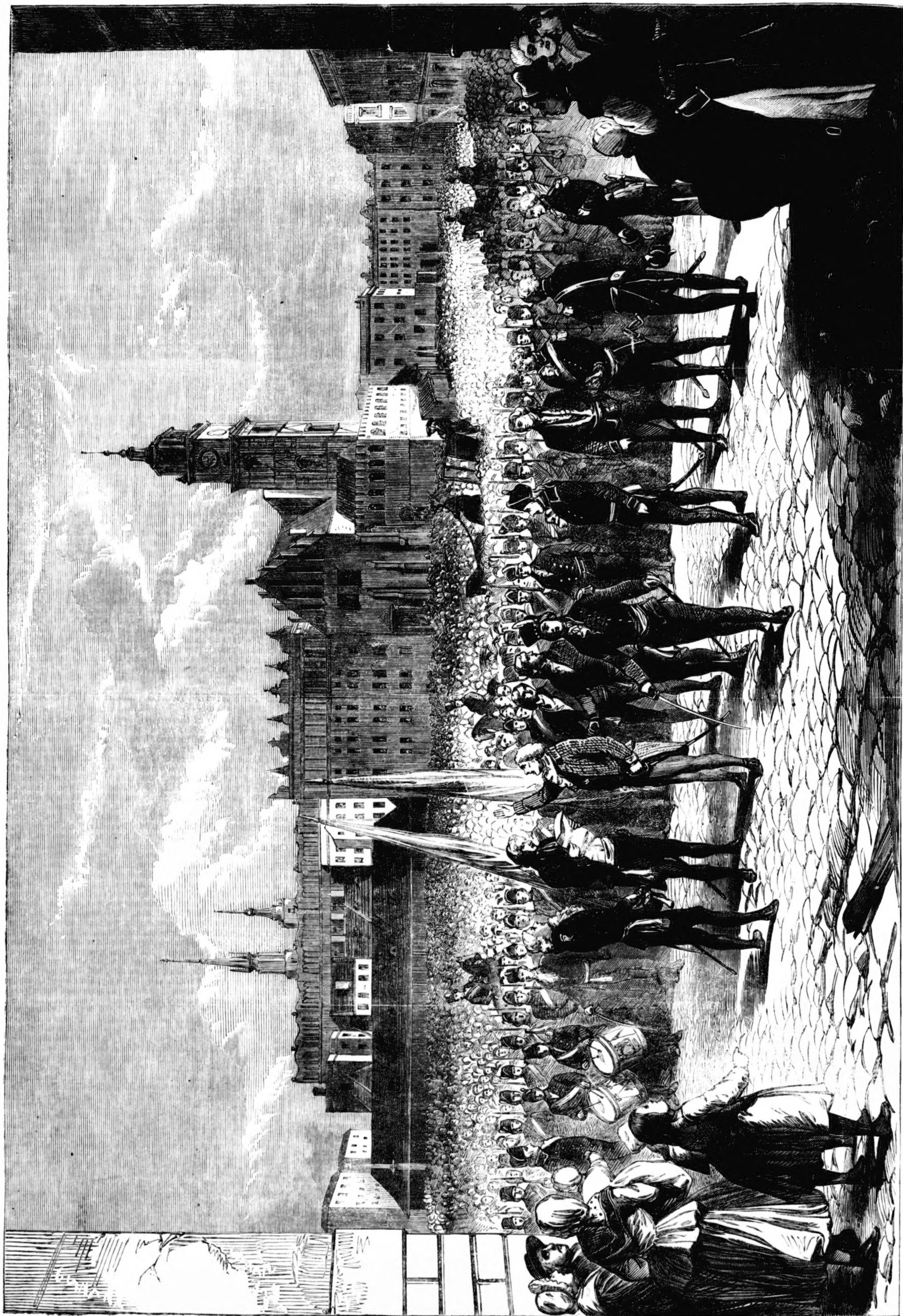
ON the first day of the present Session his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales took his seat in the House of Lords as one of the Peers of the realm. The forms observed on this occasion, which is necessarily one of but rare occurrence, are deserving of notice. The Royal Commissioners were all attired in their official robes, and took their seats at the foot of the throne. Upon the conclusion of the reading of the Royal Speech, the Commissioners and other Peers retired and remained absent from the House until nearly four o'clock.

As the hour of four o'clock approached, the Peers reassembled in considerable numbers to await the arrival of the Prince of Wales. In the side galleries near the throne were seated their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary of Cambridge, and a large number of Peeresses and foreign Ambassadors. In the Commons' gallery were several members of the Lower House.

At about a quarter before four o'clock the Lord Chancellor, attired in his ordinary dress of black silk, full wig, and three-cocked hat, entered the House, preceded by the Great Seal, and took his seat on the woolsack. Prayers having been read by the Bishop of Worcester, a procession of Peers, headed by certain officials, was observed to emerge from the Prince's Chamber and to advance slowly and solemnly up the floor of the House. Sir Augustus Clifford, Usher of the Black Rod, followed immediately by Sir Charles Young in his robes as Garter King-at-Arms, took the lead. Then came the Prince of Wales, preceded by an equerry bearing a coronet upon an embroidered crimson cushion. His Royal Highness was also accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Derby, Earl Granville, Lord Kingsdown, and Earl Spencer, in their robes as Peers; Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, Hereditary Great Chamberlain; and Lord Edward Howard, who represented the infant Duke of Norfolk, Hereditary Earl Marshal.

The Prince of Wales wore the scarlet and ermine robes of a Duke over the uniform of a General in the Army. He was also decorated with the ribbon, &c., of the order of the Garter, the insignia of the Golden Fleece, and the Star of India. As he entered the House the Peers rose in a body, and remained standing throughout the subsequent ceremony, the Lord Chancellor alone remaining seated, and covered with his official hat. His Royal Highness, having bowed his acknowledgments, advanced to the woolsack and placed his patent and writ of summons in the hands of the Chancellor. He then returned to the table, where the oaths were administered to him by Sir J. Shaw Lefevre, the Clerk of Parliament. The titles under which the Prince was sworn were the Duke of Cornwall, Earl of Chester, Earl of Carrick, Earl of Rothesay, and Lord of the Isles. After signing the roll the procession moved on, passing slowly at the back of the Lord Chancellor, who was still seated, with his head covered, on the woolsack. His Royal Highness, on reaching the right-hand side of the throne, took his seat upon the chair of State specially appropriated to the Prince of Wales. Whilst thus seated he placed his cocked hat upon his head. Having for a moment surveyed the objects in front of him, his llyal Highness rose, and, again uncovering his head, was conducted to the woolsack, where he shook hands with the Lord Chancellor, that high functionary deigning, for the moment he was thus personally honoured, to raise his hat a few inches above his head. The Prince and the other Peers, together with the officials already named as forming the procession, then left the House, retiring by the entrance at the right of the throne in the same order as they entered.

At about five o'clock the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, re-entered the House (both dressed in private clothes) and took his seat beside his Royal kinsman on one of the cross benches. The Prince remained almost throughout the entire debate, conversing occasionally with the Royal Duke and Earl Beauchamp, who sat near him.



KOSCIUSKO VOWING TO DRIVE THE RUSSIANS, PRUSSIAN, AND AUSTRIANS OUT OF POLAND OR TO DIE IN THE ATTEMPT.—AN INCIDENT OF THE POLISH INSURRECTION OF 1794.—(FROM A CONTEMPORARY PICTURE.)



OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES TAKING HIS SEAT.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

SOME years ago Mr. Serjeant Shee was asked by a friend to give his opinion upon some trivial matter. "I am no Judge," was the Serjeant's reply. "No Judge! Then you ought to be," was the prompt rejoinder; and for some years past it has been felt that Mr. Serjeant Shee ought to be a Judge. But there were difficulties in the way. He is a member of the English Bar, and could not well be lifted to the Irish Bench. He is a Roman Catholic, and no Roman Catholic has been promoted to the English Bench for I know not how many years. This difficulty has, however, I understand, been waived, and Mr. Serjeant Shee is to be made a Judge and to go the western circuit. The appointment will probably cause some stir. The ultra Protestants will growl at it; the prophets will look at it as a sign of the coming triumph of Antichrist, and, as Power has it, begin to buy their coals by the sack, not thinking it worth while to order a ton as the destruction of all things is so nigh. But the great majority of the people, it is to be hoped, will rejoice and be glad to see that the ruling powers have dared to take another great step in the right road.

There is a printed paper privately circulated among the clubs which excites some curiosity. It purports to be a suppressed despatch by Cardinal Antonelli to the Papal Nuncios in the European Courts—intituled "suppressed," because it did not appear in the French yellow book. It positively contradicts the statement of Mr. Odo Russell, and asserts that he was not sent for by the Pope, and that his Holiness did not first broach the subject of his retirement from Rome to the English dominions. I have read this paper, and my belief at present is that it is an impudent forgery—intended perhaps as a hoax, but none the less a forgery for that. At the end of the despatch there is a sneer at England's boasted character for hospitality, something the like of which I think I have heard in the English House of Commons. Indeed, the style of the writing seems to me to betray its English, or, rather, its Irish origin. But, of course, sooner or later the truth will come out.

Lord Derby prophesies that we shall have a humdrum Session, and all the auguries portend the same. I learn that there are to be very few Irish bills introduced; still fewer Scotch; and not many from the English departments of any great importance. Neither will there be any Ministerial crisis. Sir John Walsh, when he denounced, on the first night of the Session, any attempt to change the Government, was not the recognised mouthpiece of the Conservatives, but that he spoke the sentiments of three-fourths of the county gentlemen I have good reason to know. With no great public measures, and no party fighting, it would seem that we shall indeed have a humdrum Session. But let not your readers imagine that the Session will be short. If the House has little to do, it will spread that little over the usual surface, we may be sure.

Kinglake's "History of the War in the Crimea" is out of print, and the public will have to wait some time for the new edition. At present Mr. Kinglake is alive and well; but it is understood that there are several gentlemen over the water very rabid, and that Count Fleury, if he had not been held back by the politic Emperor, would have rushed over the Channel ten days ago to avenge the insults heaped by Mr. Kinglake upon the Emperor, himself, and France. I am inclined to think that even in this country an opinion is gaining ground that the temper and tone of the book is too fierce. I confess, however, that, though some fortnight has elapsed since I read the work, I would not have it otherwise than it is.

I may here note that long before the publication of Mr. Kinglake's account of the reception of the great Crimean despatch by the assembled Ministers at Pembroke Lodge the somnolency of statesmen had been remarked in print. Byron, in his journal, records a dinner party of twelve, including Sheridan, Tierney, and Erskine, of whom five were fast asleep before dessert; and in a case closely resembling Mr. Kinglake's he says:—"At the Opposition meeting of the Peers in 1812, at Lord Grenville's, where he and Lord Grey read to us the correspondence upon Moira's negotiation, I sat next to the present Duke of Grafton, and asked, 'What is to be done next?' 'Wake the Duke of Norfolk' (who was snoring away near us), he replied; 'I don't think the negotiators have left us anything else to do this turn.' *Il n'y a rien qui tue comme un ridicule*—and the Sleeping Beauties of Pembroke Lodge will probably furnish the best targets for the sharpshooters of the Opposition this Session.

Was is not Charles Lamb who, on hearing his hairdresser's eternal question, "How would you like your hair cut, Sir?" replied, "Silently?" I think so, but it matters little who conveyed that nobly terse rebuke; for we have all suffered from the generic loquacity of the genus barber, and the point of the story is strictly catholic in its application. Well, this is the age of invention, and we may for the future be spared much of the nuisance of unwished-for talk by having our hair brushed by machinery! It is quite true. A West-end hairdresser is introducing an apparatus, worked by steam, whereby his customers' hair may be effectively and dumbly brushed. This ingenious invention has been, I am told, worked with complete success in one of our large provincial towns, and the astute tradesman who is introducing it here assures me that both in comfort and efficiency it surpasses the best efforts of the most accomplished assistant. Let us hope his assurance is true, and hail the advent of this Harpocrates of hairdressing with reverence and delight.

The new daily paper, the *Iron Times*, now issues an evening edition, with the title of the *Evening Times*. The first number was issued on Thursday week, and would be readers of the Queen's Speech were puzzled to find a new candidate for their pennies in the hands of the newboys. I observe that the publishers, with laudable economy, make the same "animated sandwiches" do duty for both papers, and that their boards have an *Iron Times* poster on one side, and an *Evening Times* one on the other, the side exposed to public view varying, of course, according to the hour.

One of the military clubs has been in what is called "clover" lately. An honorary member (the same gentleman, as I am told, who chartered a ship at his own expense to search for Sir John Franklin) sent from beyond the seas such a mighty present of game that the entire club has been regaled on savoury delicacies, free of expense. As Sam Weller said of Mr. Wardell's lunch, what "a very good notion" of the functions pertaining to honorary membership does this gentleman appear to have!

I hear many comments upon the blindness of Mr. Fawcett, the candidate for Cambridge, and much canvassing of the probability of his misfortune impairing his usefulness if he be elected. There exists, however, an excellent precedent for sending a blind member to St. Stephen's. Colonel Barré, the friend and brother in arms of General Wolfe, lost the sight of both eyes—the effects of a wound received in action; yet he sat in the House for years afterwards, and proved himself on many occasions to be a useful and active member. He figures in one of Gilray's caricatures, published in 1787, and is depicted being led in to assist in forcing a projected measure down the throat of its proposer.

Messrs. Foster and Co., of Pall-mall, have sold during the past week an important collection of water-colour drawings by English artists. I visited the collection prior to the days of sale, and recognised several well-known amateurs busily marking their catalogues, and mentally arranging with amusing exactitude the precise sum to be given for the particular Copley Fielding, Cattermole, or David Cox upon which they had set their heart. Hardly a British artist of any eminence was unrepresented, and the collection was perfect in its way. Talking, by-the-way, of pictures and artists, can anything be worse than this year's display at the British Institution? With the exception of Mr. Sidney Cooper's large Welsh landscape, a small picture by Mr. Frost, R.A., and some half-dozen others, the six hundred paintings comprised in this exhibition are in the richest and fullest style of what may be called "bill-discounting art." Here we have the crude colouring, the gaudy richness, and the wooden attitudes seen in the pictorial nightmare which are only made the subject of barter in connection with "a little bill." Many of the landscape pictures must be exempted from this criticism; and I would specially commend Mr. Burr's "Country Girl at a Village Pump," "Passing into the Shade," by a (to me) new artist, Mr. G. H. Boughton; and a very natural picture of an elderly Flemish woman meditating by a fire, painted by Miss Kate Swift.

The electric telegraph seems destined to have its usefulness extended indefinitely. For £15 a year you can, I am told, have a private apparatus fitted up between two parts of London, so that an uxorious

husband, anxious to keep up constant communication with his Angelina, may have messages going on all day between his place of business and his home at the cost of two omnibus fares per diem. This is cheering news, too, for the Naggletons of our acquaintance, whose feuds need not now be confined to the "evenings at home;" but it is of the highest practical import to such firms as have branch establishments in different parts of London, and amongst them, I am told, the private telegraph is being largely adopted.

At a place called the Argyll Rooms (a place only to be mentioned *a huis clos*) a son of the kind-hearted M. Jullien—to whom the English people in a great degree owe their present prevalent taste for music—has assumed the conductor's bâton. M. Jullien, the younger, is not only a good musician but has also made a successful début as a *littérateur*, some very clever sketches of French military life, recently published in a popular periodical, being, I believe, from his pen.

I hear a very pretty story in connection with the British Government, the Ottoman Porte, and some engineers who were employed by the latter to lay down a submarine electric cable from the Dardanelles to Alexandria. Intimidation, bullying, injustice, these are the graceful qualities attributed to certain English statesmen, and I confess, from the evidence I have heard, I am inclined to say "Guilty" on every count of the indictment. The weak Ottoman, just learning to respect and to believe in the qualities of probity and honour, makes an agreement with a British subject. Circumstances subsequently make the interests of that subject clash with those of his own Government, upon which the Porte is advised to ignore all agreements with their English engineer and to rely upon his inability to bring the matter home without the sanction and support of the authorities here. If this be true, it is as complete a reversion to

The good old rule, the simple plan,
That they may take who have the power,
And they may keep who can,

as I have heard of in my time. But, fortunately or unfortunately for everybody concerned in this extremely shady and doubtful episode, "the power" in this country is public opinion, and this power is to be shortly evoked to give judgment between "pursuer" and "appellant." The sum at stake is some two hundred thousand pounds, which, as I hear, was always recognised as a valid debt by the Ottoman Government, until over-persuaded by an English Ambassador, backed by an English Secretary of State, it adopted a vice not unknown in civilised communities, and gave "repudiation" as a watchword. It is, as I have said, a very pretty story as it stands, and I shall be curious to see what is done with it during the coming Session.

A good story is being told in connection with the Alabama. When her equipment was thought to be a violation of international law it was determined not to allow her to leave these shores. The Collector of Customs of the port off which she was anchored was accordingly telegraphically ordered to prevent her sailing. But as the telegraph did not inform him *how* this was to be accomplished, and as the official force was limited to three peaceful servants of her Majesty, while the Alabama was manned by a crew of desperadoes, who would fight to the death, and then sink or burn rather than be taken or delayed, the means were felt to be scarcely adequate to the end; so the collector wisely determined to let matters take their chance; and the Alabama set sail in blissful unconsciousness of her menaced danger.

Reading, the other day, the new volume of "The Correspondence of Napoleon the Great," I was hugely delighted with the two passages I am about to quote. The first is an extract from the Emperor's instructions to his Envoy at the Court of Berlin (General Duroc), which instructions are dated Oct. 24, 1805. The General is ordered to say to the Prussian Monarch: "L'Empereur est en connu en Europe; c'est plus un homme de cœur encore qu'un homme de politique. Serait-il possible que votre Majesté voulût, par un conduite douteuse, aliéner un homme d'un si grand caractère, et qui lui est si attaché?" What think you of Napoleon le Grand as limned by himself? Talk of a heart worn upon the sleeve, here we have it not only upon the sleeve, but on every portion of the garment. It is all heart. "Less a politician than a man of feeling!" Of a disposition so sensitive and affectionate that doubt from a friend will alienate his tender nature. "Methinks the lady doth protest too much." Well might Napoleon order Duroc to preface this picture with "The Emperor is little known in Europe." Poor Emperor! He suffered under the same cruel aspersions which the chickens have from time immemorial cast upon the fox, and which the ferocious, bloodthirsty lambs have ever levelled at dear, good, kind Mr. Wolf. But, not satisfied with dictating the precise words in which his character is to be set forth, he adds a lesson of elocution, thus: "Dites lui ces mots d'une parole claire." Yes, a voice clear as a bell, and a countenance as hard and immovable as the metal of which bells are composed, were doubtless necessary to make these dreadful "crammers" pass current. When one remembers that the artless innocent of France had been crowned King of Italy in the preceding May, and that he fought the battle of Austerlitz in the following December, it is deliciously obvious that he had at this time of writing enough upon his hands, and wished to finish his gambols with Russia and Austria before he tried a fall, as he did shortly afterwards with his cousin of Berlin.

Here, again, is a gem of humility, culled from a letter to the Emperor of Austria, dated Nov. 3, 1805, just a month before Austerlitz, and when he had in his own mind determined to fight: "Il faut qu'il n'y ait plus entre nous aucun sujet de division, aucune chose qu'on puisse lui faire accroire que je desirais avoir. C'est le moyen de remener enfin, si cela est possible, votre Majesté aux véritables idées que son ennemi naturel n'est point la France, qui n'a rien à lui envier." What can be fairer or more ingenuous than this return to first principles? In order to agree with me you have only to give up everything I wish to have! Would you propitiate your enemy, divest yourself of everything he can possibly envy! I don't say I have selected the best or most characteristic "bits" out of this astounding correspondence; but do they not speak volumes anent the sincerity and unselfishness of the modest Corsican?

Some one started in print the notion that all loyal subjects of the Queen and well-wishers to the Prince and Princess should bedeck themselves with white favours on the approaching marriage-day. Acting upon the suggestion, the Coventry manufacturers have set to work to produce bridal favours for the million. Mr. Bowett has just turned out a very elegant one, with the Prince of Wales's feathers on the button of the rosette, and portraits of the Prince and Princess on the streamers. The movement, we hear, has the patronage of the Coventry and North Warwickshire relief committees.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A dramatic version of "The Heart of Midlothian" was produced at the SURREY on Saturday evening last, under the title of "Effie Deans." It was well supported by excellent acting and effective scenery. The storming of the Tolbooth and the capture of Porteous by the mob deserves especial remark as a triumph of stage effect. Miss Pouncefoot appeared to great advantage in the character of Madge Wildfire, and Mr. Goulay delineated the Laird of Dumbiedikes with much force and humour. Perhaps some of the spirit of the dialogue, which was for the most part reproduced from the novel, was lost upon southern ears unaccustomed to the Scottish dialect, but, upon a few of the less good-natured among the audience displaying their want of appreciation in this respect, Mr. Shepherd, the manager, speedily quieted the malcontents by addressing them in the plainest possible English. With the exception of this incident, all went well. The piece was deservedly successful; and, as usual at this theatre, manager and scenepainter were more than once called before the audience.

At the LYCEUM the houses are tremendous. On Friday week there was a most brilliant assemblage. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and suite, the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary, and the Duc d'Aumale and family being simultaneously present. The Prince of Wales's box and antechamber are fitted up in a remarkably tasteful manner. More Scotch pieces! On the 23rd inst. a new piece called "Bonnie Dundee" is to be produced at DRURY LANE, in one scene of which, the gathering of the clans, 400 persons, are to be on the stage at the same time.

Mr. H. R. Beverley, elder brother of Mr. Robert Roxby, and Mr. William Beverley, a comedian of great facial humour and good reputation in the north, died last week.

OUR FEUILLETON.

LIFE IN POLAND.

How do people live in Poland?

It is easier for a traveller of the last year or two to say how they die there. "Mourir pour la patrie? Oui, je comprends cela," a certain Pole who had deliberately taken up his residence abroad is reported to have said; "Mais y vivre? Jamais!"

They don't dance in Poland; they don't sing much (unless it be the patriotic hymn, which they sing on all possible occasions); they don't go to the theatre or to concerts; they don't give brilliant parties of any kind; and it is only at weddings that ladies put off their mourning, and for one day only appear in white. A Polish gentleman at whose house I was staying near Posen was building a new conservatory, a billiard-room, and thought, at first, of adding a ball-room; "But it was scarcely worth while," he said. "The Poles had given up dancing, and would not be likely to begin again for a very long while."

"Used you to dance a great deal, formerly?" I asked a young lady in another part of Poland, who was of opinion that dancing would totally disappear among the Poles as a national custom, inasmuch as they would soon begin to forget their steps (as if Polish young ladies did not dance naturally).

"A great deal," was the reply, "but not very often; we live so far in the country. We used to begin very early, and dance till about five. Then the musicians could play no longer, and everybody pretended to go. However, when they had all put on their morning clothes, and were about to start, it always happened that some one suddenly struck up a mazurka, and we began again, the shutters were closed, and we generally went on dancing until twelve. Then we had an early dinner, and at last the party really broke up. Nothing of that kind, however, since the 27th of February." *

This unhappy country, now the saddest in all Europe, was at one time the gayest. A Polish gentleman of the neighbourhood of Cracow used to say that his great-great-grandfather's wedding lasted a week, and ten barrels of wine were drunk; his great-grandfather's five days, when three barrels were drunk; his grandfather's three days, and one barrel was drunk; his father's twenty-four hours, and a hundred bottles were drunk; his own occupied an evening, and nothing was drunk but a little champagne at supper; his son was married quite quietly, and the guests had twelve cups of tea. Let us hope that the grandson will return to champagne and to good Hungarian "born in Hungary and bottled in Poland." "Optimum vinum," say the Poles; "in Hungaria natum in Polonia ducatum."

I suppose no one expects me to say what the Poles eat in the way of national dishes, to describe the savory *bigos*, dear to hunters, of which a poetical description may be found in Mickiewicz's "Pan Tadeusz," or to analyse the more than refreshing *chłodziec*, in which the principal ingredients are cream, slices of cucumber, ice, and fragments of game—the whole constituting a remarkable fine soup for a hot summer's day.

"But what is the conversation of the Poles like?" it may be asked.

To me it was deeply interesting; but it was always on the same subject.

And are all classes affected in the same way by the present tragic position of their native land?

In the towns, yes; but in many parts of the country the peasants probably care for very little beyond their daily wants. Nevertheless, in Lithuania the Russian Government forbids them to wear Polish costumes, from which it may be concluded that they would wear them if left to themselves. Among the inhabitants of towns, and also among peasants in the neighbourhood of towns, the patriotic feeling from high to low is universal. A wedding took place at an hotel while I was staying in Cracow. I was wondering what the company would do to amuse themselves. They did nothing all the evening, and then sang the National hymn. This was not the marriage of the daughter of a proud, "factions" aristocrat (familiar type to the imagination of Russian and German pamphleteers), it was the marriage of a waiter's daughter, and the guests were waiters, innkeepers, and small tradesmen, with their families.

In Warsaw the feeling against Russia is so strong that music-publishers and librarians will not have any Russian music or books in their shops.

In Cracow I bought an Austrian map, the "Ethnological Chart of the Austrian Empire." When it was sent home to me I unrolled it, and found a slip of paper wafered on to it inscribed as follows:—

"This map was made by a false German, who has German-coloured our Polish districts and towns."

I pointed out to the person who brought it that I could not remove the paper, and that if I tore it off there would still be four large wafers remaining in the map, which would slightly disfigure it. The shopman quite agreed with me on that point; but said that his master, seeing that I was an Englishman and took an interest in Polish subjects, was determined I should not be deceived by "false Germans;" that he would rather the notification as to their falseness was not removed, but that I was, of course, at liberty to take the map or leave it.

The reader may be sure that I took it, and that I mean to keep it and do not mean to remove the notification as to the falseness of German map-makers when laying ethnological colour round Polish towns. I suppose there are no shopkeepers anywhere else in the world who would object to sell a map from patriotic motives, if they fancied that it represented their country in a disadvantageous light. The bookseller in Cracow, no doubt, said to himself,—"They may turn our palaces into barracks, our chapels into tobacco warehouses, the tombs of our patriots into forts, and they may affect to regard us as Germans; but, at least, they can't make us sell a lying publication which declares that we are Germans in the face of the whole world."

Poor fool! If he had known anything about the principles of political economy he would have been aware that, having bought his map in the cheapest market, all he had to do was to sell it in the dearest. It was not his affair to see whether Cracow and Leopold were marked as German or as Polish towns. It would be almost as absurd for a shipbuilder to inquire whether the vessels he was building, or an ironfounder the cannons he was casting, were for the service of his country or of his country's enemies. Was there no one to tell him that if there was a demand for certain German ethnological maps that demand would be supplied, whether he liked it or not, that he might as well supply it as any one else, and that it was even better he should do so in the interest of Poland, than that he should refuse and throw the trade into the hands of foreigners?

I met just such another fool in Warsaw, who would not sell me a history of Poland on the ground that he could only procure the histories authorised by the Government, and that they were not true.

Another imbecile of the same type was a circulating-library keeper, who, finding that I was studying the modern history of Poland, gave me one day, without my having asked for it, a translation, which he had taken the trouble to make himself, of the speech to the Diet in which Alexander promised to extend the Constitution of 1815 to all the Polish provinces in the possession of Russia. This was no part of his business, and brought him no profit. In a commercial point of view he was therefore a fool; but if there are many fools of the same kind, their folly will one day make Poland a fine country.

This patriotic feeling, which, in all sorts of little and great things, the Poles are constantly showing, is caused no doubt, or, at least, has been greatly increased, by the suffering they have undergone; and do not let any one imagine that they suffer less acutely in Austria and Prussia than in the more uncivilised Russia because they are not tormented there in precisely the same manner. We and other independent nations are so fortunately situated that, apart from massacres, we can form no idea as to what the Poles have to endure under their foreign Governments.

* The day (1861) on which the soldiers, for the first time during the present reign, fired on the people at Warsaw.

"I don't think we have any particular complaint to make that would be very intelligible in England," said a Polish gentleman to me in Cracow.

"They don't shoot us in the streets if we keep quiet. The police don't interfere with us. The press is tolerably free. Books of all kinds are openly sold in the shops. But we are governed by foreigners. The misery of that you can no more understand than a rich man can enter into the feelings of a poor man—an utter impossibility, unless he has at some time been really poor himself."

I afterwards noticed a great many very palpable grievances which the Poles of Galicia had to put up with; but the foreign yoke is the evil of evils.

"The rule of the foreigner," says M. de Maistre (a man not fond of anarchy), "is a misfortune without parallel. No punishment, no torment of the heart can be compared to that." Indeed, I never heard the Poles, unless they were pressed on the subject, complain that they were overtaxed, or say very much about any special hardships caused by foreigners being set in government over them. This was not because they did not feel them, but because in the midst of general injustice it does not occur to them to lay stress on particular cases. If we hear of a woman being forced to marry a man whom she hates, and whom she has long had the best reasons for hating, are we afterwards to conclude that she is living happily with him because we never hear of his publicly ill-treating her? Is there no other way of torturing a wife but by the vulgar Russian-in-Warsaw mode of throwing knives at her head? The scribes of the German Chancelleries know better than that. They can render the life of a Pole intolerable without causing the least sensation in Europe, and without furnishing a pretext even for the composition of a newspaper paragraph. When I arrived in Cracow and looked for the mound raised by the Poles in honour of Kosciusko, I was ashamed to ask whether it could be the green hill just outside the city, on which the Austrians had erected their principal fort. It seemed to require such a combination of stupidity and irreverence to turn the tomb of the Polish hero into a post from which to bombard the ancient Polish capital that I fancied I must be wrong, and did not wish to be thought capable of imagining anything so preposterous. When at length I put the question, and expressed my astonishment at the answer, "You cannot have been very long in Poland," my informant remarked, "if you are surprised at that. The Austrians take strange liberties with us. Their manner of arranging Kosciusko's tomb is only one of them."

If this contempt for the feelings of the Poles is really only part of a system, it is, of course, quite natural that they should not call attention to particular instances of it. Otherwise I do not see why the Austrians should not take all the salt they can get from the mines of Wieliczka and Bochnia, impoverish Galicia by excessive taxation, give all the important offices in the Administration to Germans, and still not insult the Poles. I think the Austrians might not only not lose, but might even gain, by such a change. The Poles are just the people of all others in Europe who would be likely to put up with a certain amount of injustice if no indignities were offered to them.

Have the Austrians never heard of a certain class of liars of whom it is said that they never tell a falsehood except for their own advantage?—a very respectable class of liars, indeed, far superior to those who scatter falsehoods abroad from malice or mere wantonness. Now, as there are liars and liars, so there are tyrants and tyrants; and it is surely not too much to ask in the present day that tyranny shall not be so practised as to wound the victim to the heart without securing any particular advantage to the tormentor. The Prussians exercise their tyranny in a less openly offensive manner, and never injure their Polish subjects without a view to profit, immediate or remote. They do not desecrate Polish tombs, or turn Polish chapels into tobacco-ware-houses, like the Austrians; neither do they erect trophies on spots where Polish insurgents have been slaughtered by their troops, like the Russians. They ignore the Polish language, they will not tolerate the teaching of Polish history, they will not allow a Polish college or a Polish theatre to be opened; if a Polish estate is for sale, they will buy it for something more than the market price and sell it for something less to a German; they will seize Polish newspapers without just cause, they will imprison Polish editors in the hope, if they cannot ensure their condemnation, that they may at least injure their journals during their absence from them; they will even invent conspiracies so as to make their measures of repression appear justifiable;—but they do all this with a direct view to their own advantage and for the furtherance of the great scheme of "Germanisation" in the Grand Duchy of Posen. Let them have their meed of praise, such as it is.

While, however, we in England are calmly speculating as to which of three varieties of tyranny practised in Poland is the worst, there are many Poles who have actually tried all three, and who say, as Fuller said after reflecting on different modes of death, with their advantages and disadvantages, "None please me." Count Prozor, the representative of a powerful family and one of the most influential men of the Court of Stanislas Augustus, was first of all seized and imprisoned by the Prussians. Having after a time been set free, he went to settle in France, but, soon changing his mind, returned to Poland, where he was seized and imprisoned by the Austrians. In 1802 he was liberated, but was soon afterwards sentenced to exile by the Russians. He did not make the journey to Siberia, being pardoned by the Emperor Alexander; but in 1825, while still detained at St. Petersburg, he was accused of having taken part in the conspiracy which broke out in that year, and passed the last few years of his life in the fortresses of Peter and Paul. Finally, he was proved to have had nothing whatever to do with the conspiracy, and, having been once more set at liberty, escaped all chance of further persecution by dying.

This noble old man, when he was eighty years of age, used to boast that he had lived as Poland had lived—he had passed half his life in prison, and had been dismembered, like his country.

"Prussia," he said, "took my youth; Austria, my health; Russia my intellect; but they cannot take my soul."

SUTHERLAND EDWARDS.

TROUSSEAUX' CONFESSIONS.

It was afternoon in the north-west. It was a Saturday. A handsome church, built of rough stone, with a spire or steeple purposely suffered to remain incomplete, had been deserted after the solemn ceremony which the legal "before twelve of the clock" had witnessed. The Rev. Mr. — had been invited to Upper Gloucester-place, Regent's-park, where he well knew that, besides a splendid wedding breakfast, at least six pairs of worked slippers and a couple of rusty-looking waistcoats without buttons awaited him. The Rev. Mr. — was, in fact, the duck of the whole parish.

It is afternoon, three o'clock. The Rev. Mr. — has had his breakfast, his slippers, his waistcoats, and has pretended not to have noticed that the fecs were duly deposited. Everything is over. Pa and Ma, by no means sorry to get rid of a darling who has been hanging fire any time these ten years, have not indulged in the hypocrisy of treating the social treaty to a single tear. Why should they? Is it not for the giddy thing's good? "We must not be selfish, Mr. McCash," and so forth, the good lady went on. Moreover, these excellent people from the north had made so good a bargain with middle-aged Mr. Colchicum, the "happy" bridegroom, that really it was impossible for them to have a single regret upon which to lavish the affectionate pearl. All Baker-street vowed that it was a case of intimidation, threatened exposure, and the like. That we shall never know; but it is certain that this fond couple, these affectionate parents, had secured for their little pet an entirely unconditional marriage settlement of nearly as many hundreds a year as can be managed without running into the three noughts. And so they bore up bravely. That they did was an especially good thing, for it allowed the funny man to be really funny without being set down as an ill-mannered brute—a state of hilarity hitherto unapproachable ever since the park of the Regent divided the honours of Gloucester-street with the estate surnamed of Hyde. But to resume. The bridemaids have been kissed by the unprivileged as well as the more socially and legally favoured. Mistakes will happen. The last remnants of the newly-made Mrs.

Colchicum's collection of old gowns, faded finery, odds and ends of the "Ladies Wardrobes Purchased" descriptions have been distributed to Sally and Betty, and grined over as worthless. The carriage and four (Gloucester, not Baker-street, mind) has been duly laden with all that the bride can ever want or not want, including a doll, for the sweet thing cannot relinquish her playthings. The period has arrived when the family and oldest friends assemble in the hall to say "good-by," and think how glad they are that that's all over, and for the young people and unconcerned guests to remain in the breakfast-room and speculate whether it would look well to ask for more champagne. Whilst Mr. Pool is offering a match at billiards and biccupping a complaint of an evidently unslakable thirst there is a slight commotion in the hall. The bride has been told that "there, she had better get into the carriage, love."

"No, ma, no," says this giddy, artless thing, who has seen only ten years' service on home station before being transferred to the foreign. "No, ma, no; surely I have had my share to-day. Lucy must go on the tour." (Lucy was the sister.)

It took some minutes to convince this innocent lamb that any such exchange was scarcely according to the rules of any society, however far from polite circles; and the incident is only mentioned here in order to show the excessive ingenuousness of certain young ladies when brought up in a thoroughly good neighbourhood, unaddicted to worldly principles. But Mr. and Mrs. Colchicum have left town for the honeymoon.

Mr. Colchicum may possibly have been selected by Nature to be the shell of a bad temper. He may be averse to matrimony, and very likely he had no right to marry. At all events, something must have been wrong on one side or the other, said the world; and on both, said Baker-street, when, six weeks after marriage, Mr. Colchicum wrote to Mr. McCash to say that it was impossible to live with his daughter any longer. Such a temper, &c. Whilst negotiations were pending, some imprudences of the giddy, artless young lady made affairs still worse; but, probably, as such matters have turned out of late, decidedly less complicated.

In a fine district of a western county the Rev. Mr. — has bought an enviable living. He is the duck of the district; and it is said that he is about to marry a lady whom some people call a widow. They will be rich, at all events. Mr. Colchicum leads the life of a recluse.

Mrs. Stoke entreated her daughter, Eliza, not to marry that Mr. Newington. They had been engaged some years; but Eliza was very young, and certainly would not marry against her mother's wishes. But she thought she could persuade. She could not bear the thought of giving up her lover; and, indeed, as is the case with many angels, thought she should be more happy in being miserable with him than in being happy with another.

"You are quite right, mother. He is, oh! so proud! And he wants a deal of attention. And he should not make that old joke of his about the mother-in-law. I've often told him not to. But still—"

"But, still, indeed! What more can be said? You know yourself how he says that he must keep the keys—that he must take care of the money—that if there's any noise in the house when he's busy, he'll—"

"Oh, yes; but then that's only his tease. And see what he has sent me. He is to be here this evening." And the good girl showed her mother some little quaint, valueless trinket, which her peculiarly-constituted lover had sent to her. Eliza would make any kind of excuses for Henry Newington.

"Trumpery!" was the reply. What a mother-in-law Mrs. Stoke will make!

Let the character of Mr. Newington be explained. He was a "model lover" according to the creed of a few who professed to be plain, sensible people; and a gloomy prig, according to the views of the great majority, who, after all, are not invariably infallible. He had been heard to say (the brute) that he would be married in the clothes which he happened to be wearing at the time, and at the nearest church in the parish. But he never spoke of the ceremony itself in any words save those of reverence, and did not think much of the wit which drew little distinction between matrimony and hanging. Such terms as "the fatal noose," and "turning off," he considered more elegantly appropriate to those classes upon which such actual fates usually fall. Mr. Newington did not consider it necessary to demonstrate his affection in public. He treated Miss Stoke in company much as he would have treated any other young lady, and was prepared to run the risk of her jealousy rather than be made ridiculous by a too close intimacy with her apronstring. He would tell Eliza this when alone; and explain that a genuine affection should be capable of bearing any such test. As for an absence of a week or two occasionally, why not? It is indisputable that the mind can be most intensely concentrated on absent things; that the contemplation of littlenesses present can do no permanent injury to an imagination deeply imbued with greatnesses afar off. Eliza did not object to being instructed through the medium of lips that were sometimes more occupied with hints of a purely pleasing character. Besides, she could reason for herself, and analyse the dilemma; thus:—

By his present course of calm conduct the world might call him "a cub."

If he did as the world would have him, the world would be the very first to call him "milkop."

She could not marry a milkop. A reputed cub might be reclaimed.

But was this cub so much waste land? Would he pay for the reclaiming? Of course Eliza thought he would, and set to work heartily to drain him of many clay-cold appearances only which the world had mistaken for so much corpse-like earth. Where there was at least good grass she was persuaded by her friends that it was the luxuriance of rank darnel. He could not be reclaimed. On the contrary he grew more weedy and clayey than before. When Mrs. Stoke grew determined, she found her daughter obstinate.

"Mother, I will marry him. I have promised. He is ten times cleverer than me; and he has let me lecture him until I grew tired, and always with one word he could show me I was wrong. We arranged last night to marry on the fifteenth of next month."

Eliza flushed and almost fainted. Mrs. Stoke fell in with a good old matronly custom, and took to her bed. But—

She took very good care to be quite well by the morning of the marriage. If she were not present there was a kind of probability that, despite her illness, the affair might go off quite pleasantly. So she cured herself in time to have one good week's worrying. "Ah, when I was a young girl!" "If your poor, dear father!" (whom Eliza had not seen since she was two years' old) "But what's coming to the young girls of the present day!" and other observations on human life, founded on a kindly spirit and utter helplessness, which spread a feeling of bliss throughout a small family which nothing but the melancholy of a wedding could possibly dissipate.

The marriage passed over. For a simple month this "ill-assorted couple" led a life of snarling and unhappiness, of Continental disregard of morality, and hotel extravagance combined with home treachery and Bluebeardism. At least that was the impression amongst the "dear friends" of Mrs. Henry Newington. But the real state of the case was golden. Not a word was exchanged that did not thoroughly agree with all former promises, human and divine. Henry certainly did not allow his wife to tease herself to death over French hotel bills, but nobly took the trouble on himself, and it might have been supposed that he fully intended to carry out his original programme. But Henry was not so completely occupied in doing nothing from ten to four in a Government office as to be blind to the domestic virtues and attainments of his wife. At his own request she takes the quarter's stipend warm from the hand of the Paymaster-General; and Harry says he cannot be bothered with keys. As for his advice, she may have it, if she should ever really happen to want it.

Mrs. Stoke turned bilious on hearing the above shameful intelligence.

"Cannot ma have the spare room, and let me nurse her?"

"Of course, my love. Why not?"

Mrs. Stoke is getting better, but has a relapse now and then.

E. F. B.

ST. VALENTINE'S LITANY.

O LOVE, the Beautiful and Strong!
Heaven's Son and Daughter both,
Who with a world of wrath and wrong
Keep'st everlasting troth!
Since, in the revels of to-day
Some share, we think, is thine,
Oh, to these boys and girls at play
Be gracious, Valentine!

But, since the stream of life is vex'd
With storms, and bends, and whirls,
Beyond the bay where, unperplex'd,
Embark these boys and girls,
To such as, wed or unwed, row
Against the tide malign,
Whose speed seems nought or very slow,
Be gracious, Valentine!

To such as would love, if they could,
But could not if they tried;
To such as all in vain have sued
For love that is denied;
To such as fancy love is theirs,
Misreading word or sign,
Who take for wheat the sprouting tares,
Be gracious, Valentine!

To such as love, true love, have won,
But pay, to hold the prize,
As dear as if, to see the sun
One hour, they gave their eyes,
Then found their way, through toil and pain
By that remembered shine,
Dreading to let the vision wane,
Be gracious, Valentine!

To lovers, wedded or unwed,
Who keep misunderstood,
Whether through errors of the head,
Or turbulence of the blood;
To such as have not come to see
That prides of mine and thine,
And force and fraud, seem ill to thee,
Be gracious, Valentine!

To mere self-pleasers who, profane,
Have put thy colours on,
Who must pass through the gates of pain
To learn what they have done—
Be helpful in the dark and cold,
Lest, of the hope divine
Once tamper'd with, they lose their hold,
Be helpful, Valentine!

To all who, with thy Bitter-Sweet
Seeking to quench their thirst,
Through ill-luck, or through lips unmeet,
Taste only of the first,
Speak comfortable words to-day!—
The mystery divine,
That even thy Nay includes a Yea,
Oh teach them, Valentine!

Ah, who the mystery shall speak,
How hearts, in their rebound
From what they seemed in vain to seek,
Discern that Lost is Found?
Mystery, that slips from speech and song!—
But teach it thou, the Fair and Strong,—
That master-key of thine,
Which unlocks all the wards of wrong,—
To grant it to us all life long,
Be gracious, Valentine!

W. B. RANDE.

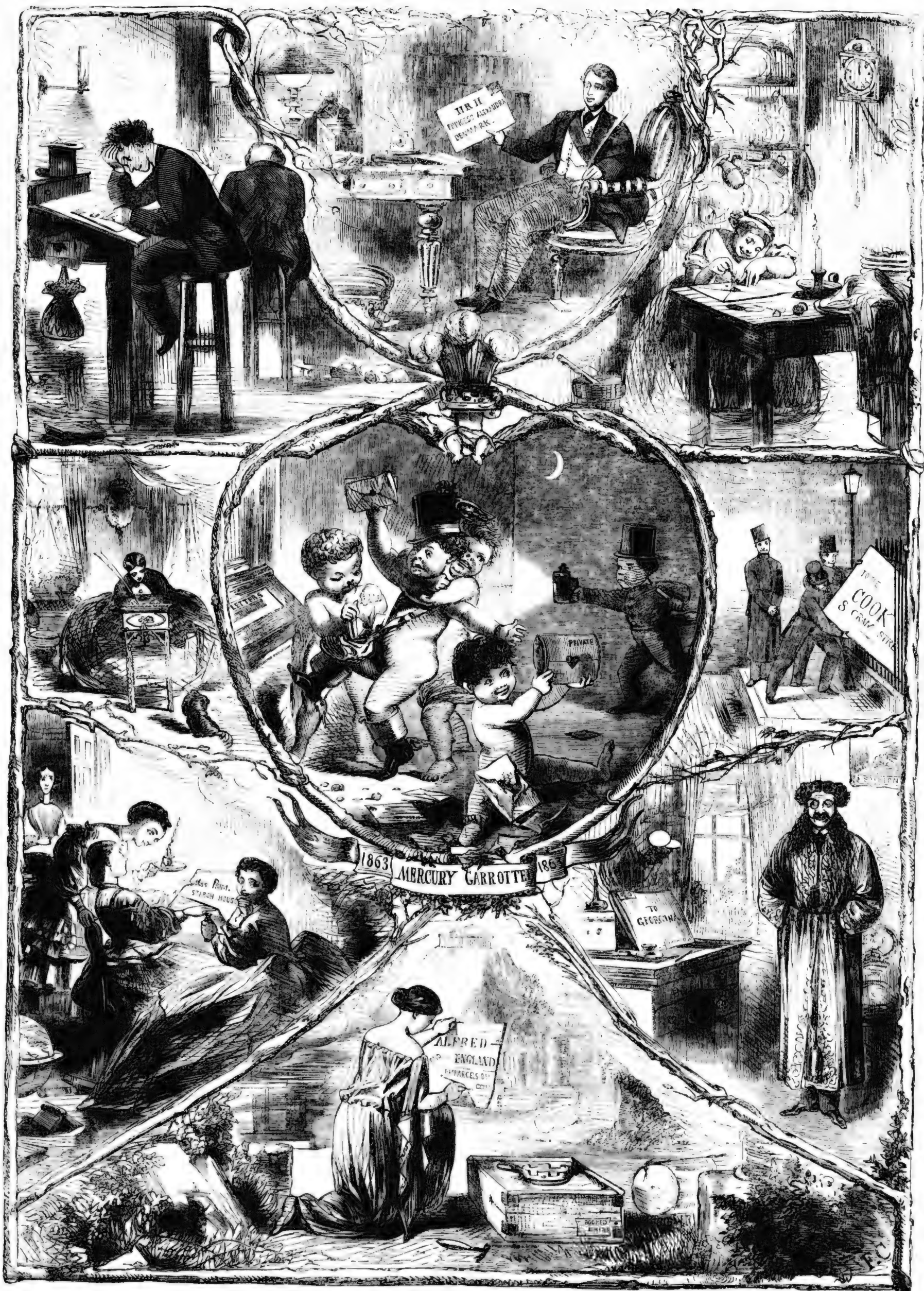
PALMERSTON'S LIVE BARRICADE.—Lord Palmerston's plan of making the warlike tendency of the Government was an application to politics of an ingenious contrivance which the Parisians used to employ in some of their street engagements with the soldiery. The contrivance was called "a live barricade." A body of the insurgents would seize the mayor of the arrondissement and a priest (if they could get one), and also one or two respectable bankers devoted to the cause of peace and order. These prisoners, each forced to walk arm-in-arm between abled-bodied combatants, were marched in front of a body of insurgents, which boldly advanced towards a spot where a battalion of infantry might be drawn up in close column of companies; but when they got to within hailing distance one of the insurgents gifted with a loud voice would shout out to the troops, "Soldiers! respect the cause of order! Don't fire on Mr. Mayor! Respect property! Don't level your country's muskets at one who is a man and a brother, and also a respectable banker! Soldiers, for the love of God, don't imbue your hands in the blood of this holy priest!" Confused by this appeal, and shrinking, as was natural, from the duty of killing peaceable citizens, the battalion would hesitate, and, meantime, the column of the insurgents, covered always by its live barricade, would rapidly advance, and crowd in upon the battalion, break its structure, and ruin it. It was thus that Lord Palmerston had the skill to protrude Lord Aberdeen and Mr. Gladstone, and keep them standing forward in the van of a Ministry which was bringing the country into war. No one could assail Lord Palmerston's policy without striking at him through men whose conscientious attachment to the cause of peace was beyond the reach of cavil.—*Kinglake's Invasion of the Crimea.*

CANDOUR OF BRITISH POLICY.—I have that to state which will not surprise my own countrymen, but which still, in the eyes of the foreigner, will seem to be passing strange. For some years our statesmen, our Admirals, and our Generals have known that the whole correspondence of the English head-quarters was in my hands, and very many of them have from time to time conversed and corresponded with me on the business of the war. Yet I declare I do not remember that any of these public men have ever said to me that there was anything which, for the honour of our arms or for the credit of the nation, it would be well to keep concealed. Every man has taken it for granted that what is best for the repute of England is the truth.—*Kinglake's Invasion of the Crimea.*

A CLERICAL ERROR.—It is said, I know not with what truth, that the style of the new Emperor was the result of a clerical error. In the course of its preparations for constituting the Empire, the Home Office wished the country to take up a word which should be intermediate between "President" and "Emperor," so the Minister determined to order that France should suddenly burst into a cry of "Vive Napoleon!" and he wrote, they say, the following order, "Que le mot d'ordre soit Vive Napoleon!!!" The clerk, they say, mistook the three notes of admiration for Roman numerals, and in a few hours the forty thousand communes of France had cried out so obediently for "Napoleon III." that the Government was obliged to adopt the clerk's blunder.—*Kinglake's Invasion of the Crimea.*

THE RED MAN—THEN AND NOW.—Artemus Ward says:—"The red man of the forest was formerly a very respectable person. Justice to the noble aborigine warrants me in saying that originally he was a majestic creature. At the time Chris. arose on these shores (I alluded to Chris. Columbus) the savages were virtuous and happy. They were innocent of secession, rum, draw-poker, and sinfulness generally. They didn't discuss the slavery question as a custom. They had no congress, faro banks, delirium tremens, or Associated Press. Their habits were consequently good. Late suppers, dyspepsia, gas companies, thieves, ward politicians, pretty waiter girls, and other metropolitan refinements were unknown among them."

THE IMPROVEMENTS OF PARIS.—Another ancient monument is about to disappear to make way for a new boulevard. The inhabitants and tradesmen in the Rotonde of the Temple have received notice to quit. Every shop-keeper is to receive 1000*fr.*, and every lodger is to receive a receipt for a quarter's rent. The Knights of the Temple, from whom the building derived its name, owed their origin to Baudouin II., King of Jerusalem, who established their Order, and lodged them in his palace, not far from the ancient Temple of Solomon. The Order of Templars was essentially French, the first of them being Hughes des Payens, Geoffrey de St. Adhemar, and seven other French crusaders. They wore a white coat with a cross on the shoulder. After the fall of Jerusalem they were dispersed over Europe. At one period they possessed nine thousand houses; and after the suppression of the Order in France the branch establishments maintained themselves for some time. The Order was condemned by Pope Clement V., and was suppressed by Philippe le Bel. The Temple was subsequently converted into a prison. Louis XVI. was confined there from the 13th of August, 1792, until he quitted it to ascend the scaffold. General Pichegru and Captain Wright met their death in the Temple in a mysterious manner, and Sir Sidney Smith effected his escape from it.



VALENTINE'S DAY.—(DRAWN BY FLORENCE CLAXTON.)

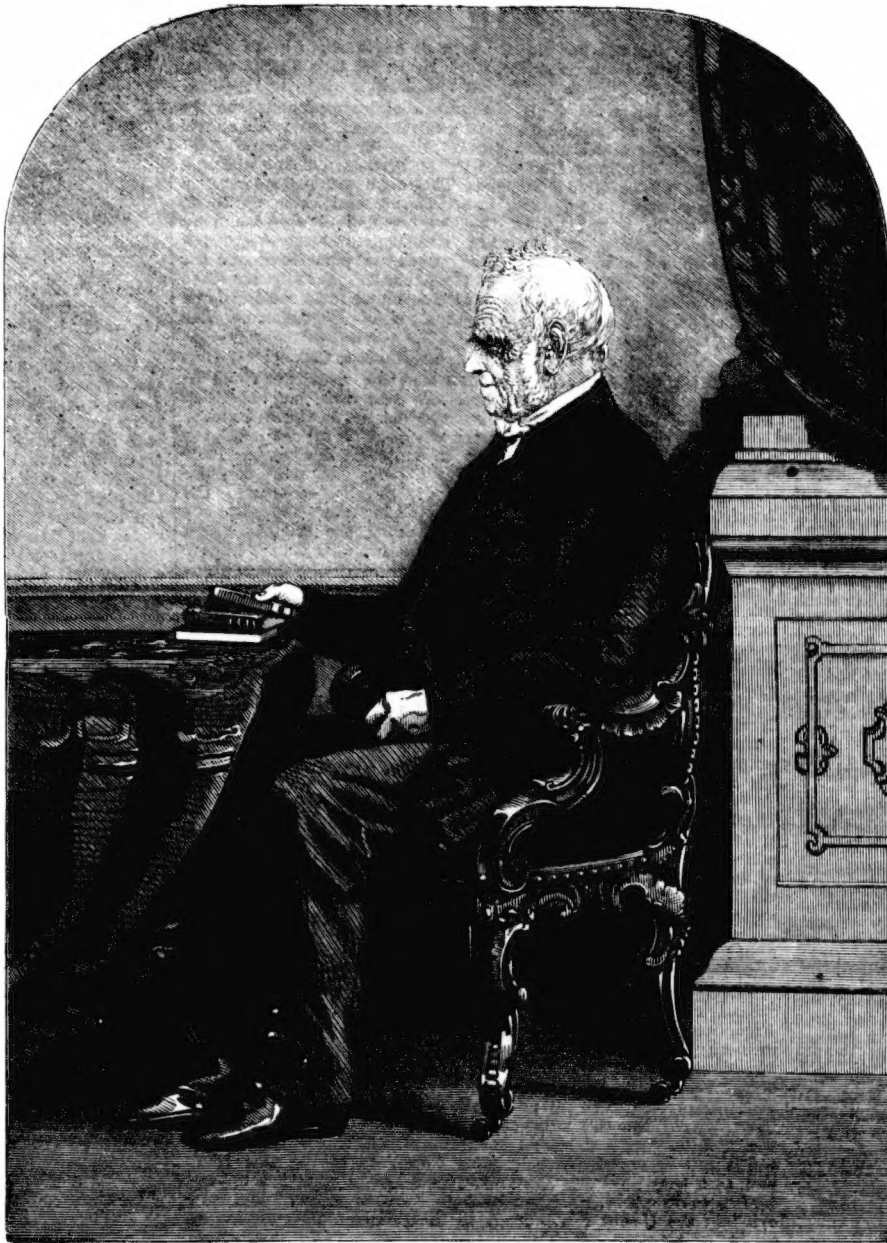
DISTRIBUTION OF MEDALS TO THE
FRENCH EXHIBITORS.

On the 25th ult., as stated in the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of the 31st, the Emperor of the French delivered in person the medals awarded to the successful French exhibitors in the World's Fair of 1862. The ceremony took place in the Grand Hall of the Louvre, the same place in which the opening of the Legislative Chambers took place on the 12th ult.; and, except that the place reserved for the senators and deputies was in this instance occupied by the exhibitors and the members of the commission of the French section of the international jury, the forms were the same. On the same platform stood the throne, surmounted by its velvet canopy and its golden eagles. The great officers of the Crown and the General commanding the Imperial Guard; the ladies and officers of the Emperor and Empress's households; the Ministers, the members of the Privy Council, the Marshals, the Admirals, the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, the Princes and Princesses of the Imperial family, some standing on the right and some on the left, with their respective attendants; the wives of the exhibitors were where those of the foreign Ministers sat on the 12th; the Cent-Gardes, in corslet, helmet, and jack-boots, on the platform, all figured on this occasion. The hour, too, was the same, one o'clock, and the cortege, civil and military, the same. The Emperor and Empress left the Palace of the Tuileries at the same hour as before, and entered the great hall of the Louvre, preceded and followed by the same attendants. They were received by Prince Napoleon and the members of the commission at the foot of the throne.

The assembly stood up and uncovered when the Emperor made his appearance. The Emperor took his seat on the throne, and Prince Napoleon rose and read the address. The Prince observed that the decorations of honour given to the exhibitors were another example of the equality which allows merit of every kind to be honoured without distinction of rank or profession. He complimented the French exhibitors who had sustained the reputation of their country in sciences, arts, and industry. The present exhibition was favoured by the circumstance of coming at the commencement of the commercial freedom in which France had entered, and experience had proved the truth of the principles which had been long established in theory. He trusted that France would persevere in the same line, for her as profitable as it was rational. In spite of some drawbacks, owing to the absence of certain great establishments, France held an honourable place in the exhibition. Hitherto France had distinguished herself in all that related to the arts, to taste, and finish of execution. England was making the utmost efforts in that direction, and if France desired to maintain her superiority she must redouble her efforts. He complimented highly the artists, as well as the owners of works of art, who had contributed to the exhibition of French products. The juries of the departments were also entitled to great praise. The labours of the jury of recompenses were well worthy the attention of his Majesty. The reports, drawn up by more than 100 persons, were published at the close of the exhibition, notwithstanding the long period necessary for choosing among products from every part of the world. He thought the Emperor's Government

would derive great advantage if it studied with attention these reports, with a view to simplify administrative regulations and to facilitate the development of individual exertion, which was so necessary; for

he had visited Mrs. Piozzi when engaged upon her "Retrospection" of Johnson, and was fond of showing a copy of Boswell's "Life" of the sage which had been presented to him "from the author."



THE LATE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

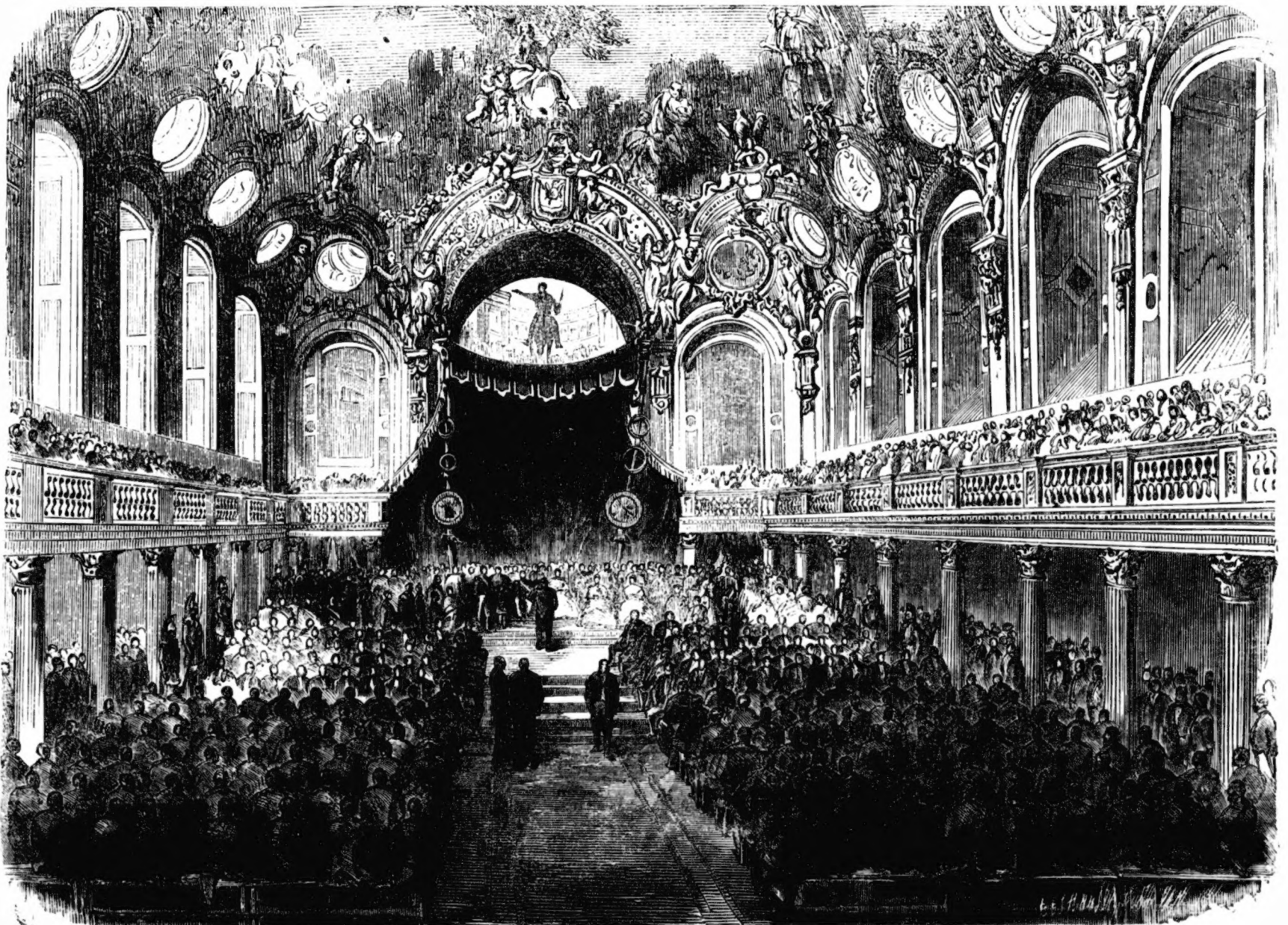
modern society, particularly in a commercial and industrial point of view, required liberty. The difficulty of making selections for the purpose of recompense was great on this occasion from the number of candidates who had nearly equal claims to distinction. The commission, however, did their best in following out the recommendation of the Emperor not to be swayed by political considerations. The delegates who represented the working classes at the exhibition were chosen by the workmen themselves, and the greatest praise that could be accorded to the Paris operatives was that a considerable number of them took part in those elections with complete calm. Those delegates, who represented all France, were not less than four hundred in number, and they acquired much useful knowledge during the exhibition. The Prince then went on to thank the commissioners of her Majesty for the courtesy and kindness extended to the representatives of France at the exhibition, and to the French officials engaged in superintending the national interests on the occasion; and, addressing the Emperor directly, concluded thus:—"On behalf of French industry, Sir, I thank you for your courageous and persistent initiative in surmounting every obstacle, without regard to passing opposition, arising, as it has often arisen, from private interest; and in making France take the lead in a policy of free trade which will ensure her prosperity. The Imperial Commission has done its best to fulfil its duty. Its highest reward, both for itself and its president, will be to have the approbation of the supreme representative of the French people—the Emperor."

The speech delivered by the Emperor on the occasion was a very remarkable one, but as we have already (see ILLUSTRATED TIMES, Jan. 31, page 67) given the substance of it, the full text need not be reproduced here. The Emperor was, of course, applauded throughout his speech, but the passage which drew forth the most marked applause was that which paid homage to the great principle of liberty in politics as well as in commerce.

The Minister of Public Works then called out the names of the exhibitors to receive the decorations which were awarded to them. The candidates advanced, had their respective merits proclaimed, and were decorated.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.

THE Marquis of Lansdowne, whose death we recorded in our last week's Number, had, in the course of his long life, enjoyed singular advantages in the intercourse he held with the great and gifted men who adorned the annals of Great Britain during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Placed by birth from boyhood in a position which others, destitute of that advantage, spend years in struggling for, Lord Lansdowne eagerly profited by the opportunities afforded him. He had listened to Burke in his most impassioned moods; he had drunk in political inspiration from the thunderings of Fox in the Senate, and had enjoyed the converse of that brilliant genius in those moments when the thunderer had laid aside his bolts; he had encountered Pitt in actual debate; he had visited Mrs. Piozzi when engaged upon her "Retrospection" of Johnson, and was fond of showing a copy of Boswell's "Life" of the sage which had been presented to him "from the author."



DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE MEDALS BY THE EMPEROR TO FRENCH EXHIBITORS AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862.

His manhood and old age were passed, like his youth, amongst all that was gifted or famous, learned, accomplished, refined, or elevating, attracted round him far more by his unaffected sympathy and congenial habits than by his rank. He did not give a haughty and protecting patronage to clever men, but claimed brotherhood with them, and sought them as his natural associates.

As some misconception exists on the subject, it may be proper to state that Lord Lansdowne was lineally descended in the male line from the Fitzmaurices, Earls of Kerry; and that, although the fortunes of the family came from Sir William Petty, it was only in the female line that the late nobleman was sprung from that gentleman. Having already given a sketch of Lord Lansdowne's life, we need not again go over the ground; but a few anecdotes and incidents in his career, unconnected with his political associations, which we cull from an article in the *Saturday Review*, will not be unacceptable to the reader.

Lord Lansdowne was a liberal and judicious patron of literature and art, and his collection of pictures is justly regarded as one of the best, though not the most extensive, in the country, and its accumulation was entirely his own work.

"When," says Mrs. Jamieson, "the Marquis succeeded to the title there was not, I believe, a single picture in the family mansion, except, perhaps, a few family portraits. Without setting forth any of the pretensions of connoisseurship—without apparently making it a matter of ambition or ostentation to add a gallery of pictures to the other appendages of his rank—guided simply by the love of art, and a wish to possess what is beautiful in itself for its own sake, Lord Lansdowne has gradually collected together about one hundred and sixty pictures, all of more or less merit, honourable to the taste which selected them, and not a few of rare interest and value." Many of his Lordship's pictures are the early works of painters little known till he sought them out. Many are associated with noteworthy incidents or remarks. Newton's "Olivia Brought Back to her Home" (a scene from "The Vicar of Wakefield") is represented with her face hidden in her father's bosom. "It is not very difficult," remarked a carping critic, "to paint a figure without the face." "But it is very difficult," retorted Constable, "to paint a sob." What Lord Lansdowne bought was the sob. Almost the last (if not the very last) purchase he made was Mr. Rankley's picture of "The Prodigal's Return." When told that it had passed into a dealer's hands, having left the walls of the Academy unsold, he exclaimed with much warmth, "Unsold! where were people's eyes? Where were their hearts?" "The Teacher of Music," by Mr. Millais, was another of his latest favourites.

Lansdowne House was, at a later time, what Holland House had been at an earlier one; and some of the associations connected with it are no less remarkable. There is the dinner-table at which Rogers, placed between Hallam and Macaulay, complained that they wrangled and fought over him, "as if I was a dead body." There are the grim, grey statues, looking down from their niches on the recumbent figure (by Canova) in white marble. It was in the doorway of that concert-room that the brilliant and fastidious Frenchman uttered his now celebrated saying:—"You English cling to your established beauties as you stand by your old institutions;" and it was in the adjoining saloon that M^{me}. de Staël, after a consultation with her host as to the best position for attracting notice, took her premeditated stand with Rogers. A descent to the subterranean portion of the building might possibly lead to the room in which (according to a plan of the second Marquis) thirty fiddlers were to have been hermetically sealed up, so as to form a reservoir of music to be conducted to every quarter of the house under the control of stopcocks, till an insuperable difficulty arose in supplying the fiddlers with air without an escape and waste of sound.

Lord Lansdowne had an exquisite sense of humour, and told his stories with inimitable zest and aptness. One of the raciest of his latest stories was of a distinguished diplomatist who had a country residence near a river, and was out fishing when he called. On repairing to the scene of action he found the Minister engaged in an appalling contest with a gigantic pike, anxiously watched by an attaché, who, whenever the pike seemed to be getting the upperhand, instinctively clutched his chief's coat-tail and held him tight. The fish was landed after a protracted struggle, and has been stuffed and preserved as a trophy of the piscatorial prowess of his Excellency. Lord Lansdowne used to relate that when, after Turner's death, he went to the artist's house, on a foggy day, in the hope of getting a sight of his reserved works, the old woman in charge, looking up through the area railings, took him for the cat's-meat man, and told him he needn't come again, since some rascal had stolen her cat.

His Lordship was no less distinguished for his kindness and generosity than for his taste, sound judgment, and clearheadedness, and numerous instances might be adduced of the readiness and yet discretion with which he sought out and relieved suffering. He knew and felt that the haunts of squalid poverty are not the places where objects of benevolence must exclusively be sought for; but that amongst the severest sufferers from pecuniary embarrassment are persons in a higher walk of life painfully struggling to keep up appearances. We know of three recent instances in which, with a graceful reference to the privileges of age, he placed large sums (two of £1000 each) at the disposal of ladies of condition who had no sort of claim upon him besides sudden and unmerited distress. The affectionate gratitude inspired by him in one to whom he had been "patient and kind through many a wild appeal" is beautifully expressed in the dedication of "The Lady of La Garaye." The morning after Rogers's bank was robbed Lord Lansdowne wrote to say that the entire balance at his banker's was at the service of the aged poet. The considerate kindness and generosity shown to Moore, and continued to his widow, by the Lord and Lady of Bowood form part of the literary annals of the country.

Of the literary taste and acquisitions of Lord Lansdowne it is unnecessary to speak, especially as his correspondence, partially prepared for publication by himself, will appear shortly, and be the means of enabling the world to judge of his Lordship in a sphere in which he is at present less known than as a politician, and which will no doubt tend to increase that feeling of respect and esteem which is universally felt for him. He had the pleasure of knowing that his character was appreciated by his contemporaries; for on his retirement from public life a subscription (limited to a guinea each, in order to comprise the greatest number of subscribers) was set on foot to present him with a bust of himself. It was executed by Marochetti, and, with a Latin inscription from the classic pen of Hallam, now stands in the inner hall at Bowood.

TRANSMISSION OF LETTERS.—A curious project has been set on foot by M. Faget, of Bordeaux, for the speedy conveyance of letters between England and France. He proposes to erect in both countries, at a distance of about 1000 metres from the coasts of Calais and Dover, a strong edifice of masonry, containing a steam-engine of sufficient power, by means of which an immense wheel twenty-five metres in diameter might be made to turn forty times per minute. By this rotation a series of wires, forming a gigantic strap extending across the Channel, is to be coiled round the wheel at one end, say at Dover, and uncoiled at the other, Calais, and conversely. To this strap indiarubber letter-bags are to be attached, which are thus conveyed across the Channel at the rate of 3000 metres per minute, so that within the space of twelve minutes the letters and despatches from one country may be landed on the other. The length alone of the strap is sufficient to cause its submersion, and the transmission might be effected in any weather. One difficulty in this plan, independently of financial considerations, is the question of the free navigation of the Channel. That the submersion of the strap in the middle of the Channel will be considerable enough to allow of ships sailing over it can readily be admitted; but the submersion will be very shallow for a considerable space near the coasts, so that vessels would have to fetch a large circuit in order to clear of the strap. This objection may not be absolutely fatal to the plan, but we should be greatly astonished to learn that any attempt were made to carry the project into execution.

CRINOLINE.—It would hardly be believed how important an industry has sprung from the fashion of wearing crinolines if there were not statistical documents to prove the fact. The steel springs for petticoats amount to 4,800,000lb. weight per annum for France alone, 2,400,000lb. for England, and 1,200,000lb. for the rest of the world. These springs, covered with cotton, are sold at the rate of 1s. 25c. per lb., which gives an average of 10,500,000. The cotton employed in covering them is sold at about 30s. the 200lb., which makes the sum 1,200,000.

THE FIRST STONE will soon be laid of a new English Episcopal church in Stockholm. The church is to be in the English Gothic style, 80ft. long and 40ft. broad. The outside will be of dressed sandstone, but the interior will be faced with Swedish marble.

Literature.

Ten Years in the United States: being an Englishman's Views of Men and Things in North and South. By D. W. MITCHELL. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Considering the credence given to books of travel founded on the hearsays of a fortnight's visit, an experience of ten years should command respectful attention for Mr. Mitchell. Much as the world knows about the States from countless authorities, much of freshness and value is to be found in his pages. They are based upon memoranda made from time to time; and, in considering and arranging them, the author honestly confesses that he has had to abandon many preconceived ideas and theories; and, indeed, resolved to tell the truth, he does seem to have spared no pains to shame the respective demons of both sides of the Atlantic. Broadly, his views of North and South—and much of the volume must necessarily be comparison—will please the greater mass of Englishmen. The "peculiar institution" certainly is

One wrong more to man, one more insult to God.

But all the negroes are better off as they are than they could be in any other country, more especially their own, and abolition must really mean extirpation, since they cannot compete with the whites. With every regard for the cheap glory of not indulging in theories, it is impossible not to stumble against a little knowledge and reason. In whatever light we may consider the manliness, the good mixture of the half-caste and the quadroon, and the sentimental beauty and dark finger-tips of the octoroon, we do not wilfully think of the original negro as a brother, excepting at a comfortable distance, and then we know that he has been placed on an intellectual pedestal which is absolutely the laughing-stock of our own. Certainly, to cultivate the germ, instead of to laugh at it, is the nobler aim; but then it is undeniable that in the South the coloured population is cherished with a degree of affection and scientific care that would startle two Sir Joshua Jebbs put together, and that in the North they are hounded, spat upon, and despised at every separate step of their flat feet.

Mr. Mitchell attempts a statistical account of the social virtues of North and South. In "Christian benevolence," Bible, and missionary purposes, as displayed in dollars, the North has an enormous preponderance. In "value of churches" the same. In newspapers the North distances all the world, the South being literally nowhere. In 1855 the South had 747 Ministers of the Gospel, the North some 10,000 more; but then, as Mr. Mitchell says, it would be interesting to learn in what section those acute ministers of the Gospel were educated who joined in the advice to set the negroes upon the people of the South. In schools, books, libraries, and education there is a similar disproportion. Of course the South has its cotton; but in agriculture, manufactures, and foreign and domestic commerce, everything goes in favour of the North. And yet, it is beyond doubt that the balance of Mr. Mitchell's sympathies is greatly in favour of the Southerners. They are gentlemen—not Yankees.

The observations, clinging like mistletoe to the oak of the volume, are of a kind generally known; but the already large crop of American vanities, vulgarities, &c.—all of which may be gathered into one "rowdy" heading—here obtain some important additions. Mr. Mitchell observes in the States a love of gossip which might compete with a young ladies' seminary or a washerwoman's Friday. The women—no, there are no women in the States; they are above that style of thing—the ladies are addicted to a display of dress which is only more moderate than that which, as the commercial world will remember, nearly ruined New York in the year 1857, and cost more in Paris than even the Imperial gamblers of the Bourse could afford. All this leads to "love of money," and "all evil" in the United States leads to the thorough undermining of all domestic virtues. Members of Congress toss cents for their places in the House, and lucky winners of the first row are only too glad to sell their places to the highest bidder. Under certain circumstances, white paupers may be sold into slavery, but the law protects them from the lash; and yet, in the face of such proclivities, it is insisted upon that all classes are well educated.

The book opens with a pair of facts which the reader would do well to take to heart. "How eagerly," says Mr. Mitchell, "we looked around us to catch the first glimpse of anything that might indicate the character of the New World. We were rather disappointed at its looking so much like the old." The other discovery is this—that most of the new Americanisms are, after all, no better than old Englishisms. In the States the word bug is always used for insect—ladybug, June-bug, for instance; and the same unpleasant addition to ancient phrase is well known to exist in our own eastern counties.

In conclusion, we have no hesitation in recommending this book as a safe and unprejudiced guide on an important subject, during a time of trouble and strife as serious as any the world has ever witnessed.

Lost Among the Affghans: Being the Adventures of John Campbell (otherwise Feringhee Bacha) Amongst the Wild Tribes of Central Asia. Related by Himself to Hubert Oswald Fry. Smith, Elder, and Co.

In a long introduction to this volume Mr. Fry states that, after close observation and investigation, he entertains no doubt of the substantial correctness of the narrative. Many of the adventures are of a very extraordinary character; but, truth being proverbially stranger than fiction, and the Indian Government finding that the hero's story agreed with all the authorities that could be brought to bear upon it, it would not be fair or politic to question the particulars here recorded. The author, or rather editor, holds himself responsible only for a faithful transcription of statements taken down from Campbell's own lips; but he gives abundant reason to believe that those statements, though occasionally garnished, perhaps, for the purposes of effect, are a simple record of facts.

The book purports to be the story of a boy who was found upon a field of carnage in the valley of Tezeen, when the British force was fighting its way through the snow-bound passes of Affghanistan, surrounded by thousands of Affghans. The infant, then about two years of age, was declared by the Indian woman in charge of it to be the son of a British officer; but, being conveyed by the troops of Dost Mahomed to their leader, the chief of the district of Konnar, in Affghanistan, he became his adopted child. The present narrative commences from the young foundling's earliest recollections, ere he had learnt the fact that he was not an Affghan by birth, but of British origin, and it appears that the English—or rather Scotch—name he bears was given to him at Bombay at the suggestion of Lord Elphinstone, the Governor, who took the youth under his protection, and kept him at school for two years. After describing—with a minuteness which would lead to the belief that the exercise of memory begins at an earlier period in the Affghan country than in our own climate—all the details attending the saving of his life and the destruction of that of the nurse who had guarded him on the battle-field, the young hero proceeds to relate his subsequent adventures; how he became beloved by one of the nine wives of the great chief who succoured him; how, being seized with the smallpox, and afterwards by fever, he was confined for forty days in a hammock slung between two trees in a garden, and, when he had partially recovered, was removed to some distant spot for change of air—how, having resumed his duties at school, he was punished with great severity by his instructors, and when he returned to the palace of the chief, his guardian, he was conveyed by that dignitary to Cabul, where he witnessed scenes of robbery, murder, and revenge which only a garotter could regard without horror, and which culminated in his receiving a gun-shot in his side; how, being weary of his existence among the Affghans, he starts upon his wanderings in search of the English, to whom he knew that he belonged by right of birth; and how, in the course of the exploits which follow, he encounters a succession of perils and escapes such as few European natures could endure with fortitude. All this is related by the young Anglo-Affghan with a perspicuity and simplicity which go far to remove any doubt that may exist in regard to the truthfulness of the record; and, although it is probable that some of the adventures have received a local colouring, there is ample evidence that "John Campbell" did travel through the remote dis-

tricts of Central Asia, if not exactly in the manner he describes, and that he had the intelligence, combined with a sufficient power of exaggeration, to extract matter of interest from the minutest occurrences.

It is doubtless due to Mr. Fry, the editor, that the work is imbued with a thoroughly English spirit, which, in a narrative of such very extraordinary events, is not a little remarkable. To Mr. Fry, whose mother then kept a school at Brighton, was intrusted the responsible task of educating the young adventurer on his being sent over to this country by Lord Elphinstone; and it is at this particular juncture that he closes his interesting story. Threatened with condign punishment by the Prince of Persia because he will not become a Mohammedan, his trials and privations seem near their close, when he meets with some English Ambassadors from Teheran, and by them he is sent to Bombay, upon their being fully assured that he is (as he represents) an Englishman by birth. At this point his education begins, and is continued, as above indicated, on his arrival in this country, where, owing to Lord Elphinstone's benevolent intercession, he receives every kindness and attention, and is ultimately sent back to India to fill an appointment as interpreter to the superintendent of the Government telegraph at Kurrachee. A more eventful history than this of John Campbell, or the Feringhee Bacha, has seldom braved the dangers of typography; and to all who have a zest for romance, founded on what is declared to be truth, it will be as entertaining as the most startling fiction which ever emanated from the brain of Captain Mayne Reid or Mr. James Grant. In opposition, however, to the presumption that Mr. John Campbell's narrative is veracious, it should be stated that the editor candidly avows, in his estimate of that mysterious individual's character, that "he argued that a lie was justifiable if it were to accomplish a right end"—a dangerous admission in connection with such a book.

Phaulcon the Adventurer; or, the Europeans in the East. A Romantic Biography. By WILLIAM DALTON, Author of "Will Adams, the First Englishman in Japan," &c. S. O. Beeton.

Constantine Phaulcon, a Greek adventurer of the seventeenth century, is one of the great men living after Agamemnon of whom ordinary society remains totally uninformed. Those, however, who have extended their researches in light literature as far as the "Histoire de M. Constance, par Pierre Joseph d'Orleans," and the "Voyage de Siam des Peres Jéuites, par Guy Tachard," both published towards the conclusion of the century mentioned, will be familiar with the "outline, or, rather, basis," of Mr. Dalton's interesting narrative. It may be suspected, without immediate reference, that the outline, or basis, is of the slightest character, and that the rich descriptions of scenery, persons, and incidents are elaborated out of next to nothing by the flow of glowing language, and the strong tendency towards the dramatic form of narrative, of the author himself. The hero is described as a youth of naturally strong abilities, roused into powerful action by the downfall of a felonious father, a rich citizen of Cephalonia, at that period, 1660, under Venetian dominion. He decides on action, and has no sooner made the decision than he has the good fortune to save the entire crew of an English ship from the clutches of an enormous Spanish vessel in league with a party of treacherous Malays. In return he becomes the friend of the English captain and a mate on board the ship. He subsequently works with the recently-defunct East India Company (then a novelty in the land), making three large fortunes, and always losing them through the machinations of Addoul, the chief of the Malays, whose early nefarious propensities Phaulcon had so signally frustrated. Phaulcon is ultimately left in happy circumstances. He has married an Eastern lady of rank, a Christian like himself, he having been brought up amongst English people, and subsequently converted to the Roman Catholic faith, and the lady having been the chief fruits of Spanish missionary enterprise. After having been Prime Minister to the King of Siam for some long time, he has been able to send over good supplies to Europe; and therefore, when obliged to fly, he does so with the assurance of finding a flourishing provision for his wife and child. Mr. Dalton has incorporated with the life of Constantine Phaulcon some similarly-exciting adventures concerning Blake Taunton, the adopted son of the English captain. Blake also marries the "object of his affections," and acquires what fathers-in-law call a "decent competence;" whilst a most miraculous interview in the heart of an Asiatic empire with a stray Spanish priest prove him to be an English Baronet and representative of one of the Norman Conqueror's proudest supporters. The disastrous chances, the moving accidents by flood and field, are given in this volume with a spirit and apparent fidelity that cannot fail to be welcome to both boyhood and youth, and were it to stray to the more dignified shelves it would deserve to meet with a kindly reception. Mr. Dalton has a higher purpose than mere excitement in works of the "romantic biography" class; the present contains much genuine historical and geographical information. In addition to that old-fashioned institution, a portrait of the author, eight full-page octavo pictures illustrate the more exciting passages of the hero's life. They are clever specimens of oil-painting in colours; but they should have been suffered to undergo the bleaching process, as, at present, the colours are so dazzling that it is dangerous to let them meet the eye unless protected by smoked glass.

The Nest Hunters; or, Adventures in the Indian Archipelago. By WILLIAM DALTON. With Illustrations. Arthur Hall and Co.

The author of this volume declares his intention to have been, as in former productions of his pen, to describe countries and picture manners, customs, and superstitions of races hitherto but little known in books of this kind. With this view he has combined fact with fiction, though where the one ends or the other begins he avows it would be difficult to decide. With this frank declaration before him, the reader will accompany Mr. Dalton in his adventures with an amount of curiosity which will strengthen the interest intended to be conveyed; for it will certainly be instructive to the youthful mind to ascertain how far the writer has drawn upon his imagination for his facts, and to what extent he has dressed up fiction to give it the appearance of truth. Books of this description are scarcely amenable to the ordinary rules of criticism, their main object being to stimulate the wonder of youth, and incite to manly deeds, by placing the hero in the midst of adventures which are not less faithful than romantic. In the fulfilment of this task Mr. Dalton has displayed all that power of description and that minute acquaintance with the marvellous which have always distinguished his writings. To follow the young Nest Hunters on their perilous journeys would be an agreeable and exciting occupation to the youthful reader, but it would be superfluous to attempt it in this place. It will be sufficient to state that the extraordinary adventures here recorded will find infinite favour in the minds of those who seem to think that the greatest amount of happiness is to be obtained from the fullest measure of danger. The author, however, claims, with perfect justice, the additional merit of having given much interesting information upon the doings of the Dutch in Java and other islands of the Indian Archipelago. The book will doubtless hold a prominent place amongst the productions of that romantic class to which it belongs.

Poems: An Offering to Lancashire. Printed and published for the Art-Exhibition for the Relief of Distress in the Cotton Districts. Emily Faithfull.

It is not necessary to say that we wish this volume a very large success. Poet, printer, paper-maker, manager, and editor have given their labour gratuitously, so that the whole "proceeds of the sale will go to the object to which the volume is dedicated," as the preface by Miss Craig tells us. The volume has been so much advertised that we need not repeat the list of the contributors, the result of whose labours has been to bring together an amount of poetry which anybody might be glad to possess for its own sake merely. We decline to quote from a book printed for such a purpose; but we must add that Mr. Monckton Milnes has put into a powerful poem the real lesson of these American troubles; that what he has to say will be found at page 58 of this "offering;" and that it is not the lesson which is just now on the lips of the wisdom-mongers.

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BENSON'S WATCHES.—The "Times," June 21, speaking of Benson's Watches in the Exhibition

DENSON'S CLOCKS.—Maker of the Great

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